

25th Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony



On April 5 the College of Nursing celebrated the silver anniversary of its premier event—the Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony—as well as the extraordinary accomplishments of the alumnae it honored that evening in the St. Thomas of Villanova Church. M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, bestowed the College of Nursing Medallion, its highest honor, upon two alumnae:

- Health-care consultant **Denise Fessler '97 MSN** received the Medallion for Distinguished Leadership in Health Care Management, honoring her innovative programs that improve quality of life while reducing costs.
- **Sally P. Poliwoda '87 BSN**, who received the Medallion for Distinguished Service to the Health of the Community for her work with the Homeless Health Initiative at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Also at the ceremony, the College honored **Dr. Jeanne Jellig Alhusen '93 BSN** as the second recipient of its Emerging Scholar Award for her research in maternal attachment and its influence on early childhood outcomes. Dr. Alhusen is an assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in Baltimore.

Mark your calendar!

April 25: Undergraduate Research Symposium

May 16: Commencement

May 17: Convocation/
Baccalaureate Mass

June 5-8: Alumni Reunion
Weekend

July 1: Application deadlines
for MSN and post-master's
certificate programs

December 1: Application
deadlines for DNP and PhD
in Nursing programs

For the full Continuing Education listing, visit www.villanova.edu/nursing/ce.

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Dear Alumni and Friends of the College of Nursing:

Having reached its 60th year, the College of Nursing has matured in many ways. Our undergraduate and graduate programs are robust and relevant in a time of enormous change in health care. In addition to being a cause for celebration, this milestone created the opportunity to reassess our goals and set our direction for the future within the framework of Villanova's strategic vision. Some priorities have emerged from our professional organizations; others from groups external to nursing. The recommendations of the Institute of Medicine's "Report on the Future of Nursing" call for an increase in doctorally prepared nurses and expansion of the numbers of advanced practice nurses to serve the growing needs of society for primary health care. Similarly, changes in higher education prompt us to consider new technologies and ways to provide education of quality in creative and innovative ways, as well as sophisticated direct patient care in clinical settings and in the home. Emphasis on patient safety and quality permeates all aspects of our activities.

As the College of Nursing advances, development of research capacity becomes increasingly essential. The recent inauguration of the Moritz Endowed Chair in Nursing Research is emblematic of our intention to develop a research environment that supports our concern for quality nursing practice. The nexus between research and clinical practice demands faculty who conduct and participate in studies that ultimately will improve patient care and expand the body of knowledge. To this end, our teacher-scholars are including undergraduate students as well as graduate students on their research teams, and as co-authors of publications that emerge from their studies. Development of both an attitude of inquiry and the skills of research are vital parts of this agenda. Both contribute to the formation of undergraduate students who are taught to engage in evidence-based clinical practice, and graduate students who will have the competence to identify researchable problems and participate in nursing and interdisciplinary work that will improve the outcomes of care.

Nursing research has evolved from the time of Florence Nightingale to the present...from the emergence of the Germ Theory to sophisticated studies that draw on the natural and social sciences, the findings of which are applied in real-life situations and assist in improving health and the human condition. Early work related to epidemiological cause and effect phenomena. Later, time and motion studies focused on hospital staffing and on nurses themselves as the subjects of research. Historical studies provide a context for understanding the development of the profession and the practice, and philosophical studies examine the essence of the patient-nurse relationship and the nature of



nursing as a healing art. Nursing research that examines the patient experience draws on the social sciences; a growing number of nursing studies employ both qualitative and quantitative methods to help answer complex questions. Research conducted by nurse educators often relates to pedagogy that results in best practices for preparing students to learn and teachers to educate. Today, of greatest significance are studies that provide the evidence and ideas for changing and improving direct patient care and the development of innovative models to deliver care that is evidence-based, safe and of high quality.

By building research capacity,
we are strengthening our
programs and better equipping
our students as clinicians and
professional leaders.



As Villanova advances its national agenda, the College of Nursing is poised and prepared to be in the forefront of that future. By building research capacity, we are strengthening our programs and better equipping our students as clinicians and professional leaders. The integration of research and research findings into the curriculum has a direct and positive effect on student learning and enhances

undergraduate as well as graduate education. Essential to taking this very deliberate next step in the life of our College of Nursing is a renewed and even stronger commitment to competent and compassionate patient care. It remains the single most reason for nursing research and it remains our mission. This issue of *Villanova Nursing* focuses on our goals and highlights some of our faculty who are contributing to building a culture of scholarly inquiry in the College of Nursing. We applaud their accomplishments and their continuing commitment to scholarship.

M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN
Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor



The State

of

the Science



From the *simplest* to the most *complex* intervention, nurses understand that the evidence and rationale for what *they do* must be in the *best interest* of the population they *treat*.

Nursing research makes use of scientific evidence to promote improvements in patient care. The issues nurse scholars study are as wide-ranging as the field itself. From nurse-to-patient ratios and their impact on quality of patient care, to hospice service availability in rural communities, nursing research permeates the everyday practice of the profession.

A 2010 study, “Implications of the California Nurse Staffing Mandate for Other States,” compared hospital patient and nurse outcomes in a state with mandatory staffing ratios versus states without such policies. Lower nurse-to-patient ratios were strongly associated with lower rates of patient mortality. Other findings included greater job satisfaction, less burnout and increased ability to care for patients. The study, co-authored by L.H. Aiken, D.M. Sloane, J.P. Cimioti, S.P. Clarke, L. Flynn, J.A. Seago, J. Spetz and H.L. Smith, was published online (April 9, 2010) by *Health Services Research*. Such studies can have enormous significance for policy change at state and national levels. This study’s results are especially important in states considering health-care workforce legislation.

Another study, “Factors That Influence the Presence of a Hospice in a Rural Community,” compared the availability of hospice services across urban, suburban and rural communities and found the availability was significantly less in rural settings. Nurses may use the results to develop ways to reach underserved populations and to improve access to end-of-life care. The 2009 study, co-authored by C.L. Campbell, E. Merwin and G. Yan, appeared in *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 41 (4), 420-428.

The necessity of research-driven nursing practice dates back to the development of the profession in the 1800s and has come to play a prominent role in practice. Pioneering figures in nursing gathered data to support appropriate interventions to determine needs for providing care. In 1854, during the Crimean War, Florence Nightingale led a team of 38 nurses to Turkey to oversee British soldiers in a military hospital. Six years later in London, she established the Nightingale Training School for Nurses and published her *Notes on Nursing*, still influential today. Her research supported the importance of hygiene and sanitary conditions for wounded soldiers, according to the Florence Nightingale International Foundation. When such findings were put into practice, mortality rates dropped dramatically and recovery time was expedited. Even more than 150 years ago, nursing intervention based on scientific data enhanced the health of patients.

In nursing as in other scientific-based professions, the research methodology has developed over time. Using a systematic approach enables better understanding of an issue, problem or phenomenon of interest. More specifically, nursing research provides evidence that leads to interventions for the health promotion of individuals and families, as well as better ways to manage illness. Both quantitative studies and qualitative methods, along with mixed methods of obtaining data, are appropriate for conducting nursing research as determined by the study questions. Nursing accepts a variety of research approaches, including historical, philosophical and pedagogical.

Nursing's First Endowed Faculty Chair Advances Research Agenda



The new endowed chair, which reflects the College's commitment to scholarship and building research capacity, is made possible by the generosity of Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz Jr., DDS, '51 VSB.

In fall 2013, the College of Nursing reached another milestone in its history with the announcement of its inaugural appointee, Helene Moriarty '77 BSN, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, professor, to the Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz Jr. Endowed Chair in Nursing Research. This first endowed faculty chair in the College is a result of the generosity of Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz Jr., DDS, '51 VSB.

The endowment of a faculty chair is symbolic of the progress the College of Nursing has made over the last 60 years and gives further visibility to the College. Establishing the chair specifically in the area of nursing research is a direct reflection of the College's commitment to future scholarship and building research capacity.

Dr. Moriarty will provide significant leadership as the College develops its research agenda. She will conduct and teach research as well as be a resource for faculty and students. She has served as a nurse researcher at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center for 20 years and has held faculty positions at the University of Pennsylvania and Villanova University. A highly respected and prolific researcher and scholar, Dr. Moriarty has conducted important interdisciplinary studies, many of which have focused on the physical and psychosocial health imperatives of veterans and their families. She is also an accomplished methodologist.

Notes Dr. Moriarty, "The Moritz Chair reflects the University's growing emphasis on faculty research that builds new knowledge within a faculty member's field of inquiry and that also increases the capacity for interprofessional research collaboration."

From the simplest to the most complex intervention, nurses understand that the evidence and rationale for what they do must be in the best interest of the population they treat. Nurse scientists often study areas that are deemed priorities at the federal level. Initiatives that emerge from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) and the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) are designed to improve the health of populations via rigorous scientific study. The NINR, a research center at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), was established in 1985. NINR's strategic plan includes these focus areas: health promotion and disease prevention; advancing quality of life: symptom management and self-management; end of life and palliative care; innovation; and development of nurse scientists. CANS' primary goal is to facilitate lifelong nursing science career development to promote better health. A major priority of both organizations is the dissemination of scientific findings nationally and internationally.

In its strategic plan, Villanova University, while adhering to its Augustinian values of truth, unity and love, emphasizes the importance of research in the expansion of academic knowledge. The College of Nursing recognizes and follows the national and international priorities of expanding nursing research and developing nurse scientists. The College emphasizes that, in all settings, it is imperative for nurses to utilize research to propel evidence-based practice and to promote the common good, as well as to develop new knowledge through scientific inquiry. Villanova Nursing alumni further this commitment to research in their workplace settings.

The Center for Nursing Research is a locus for the College's scholarly activity. Currently, faculty are exploring topics relevant to a variety of nursing specialties and areas of concern. These areas include the health issues faced by veterans and their families, health-care access and health issues of people with disabilities, infection control, intimate partner violence and home care of the aged. Faculty members have published their research in books and in such journals as the *American Journal of Nursing* and the *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*. They encourage students at the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels to participate in a variety of research projects. They present their findings at local, regional, national and, increasingly, international conferences. In all of the College's programs, students are taught the value of evidence-based clinical decision-making and the importance of using strategies stemming from carefully gathered data to better the communities they serve.

In combining research with community outreach, the College benefits underserved populations at home and abroad. The Center for Global Health promotes faculty and student research to steer practice efforts in improving the health of impoverished communities in the United States and abroad, including in Peru, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and South Africa. Faculty and students then return to collaborate in presenting their findings in a scholarly manner to benefit the nursing community's efficacy in aiding underserved populations.

Research is integral to nursing practice. In adherence with Villanova's emphasis on the importance of research in promoting academic advancement, the College prides itself on encouraging the use and dissemination of ethical research to promote the health and well-being of all people and communities in need. •

Through *the Lens of* Scientific *Inquiry*

The College of Nursing's faculty engage in **research** to advance health, patient care and the profession. They apply their **expertise** to a broad range of challenges, from reducing neonatal deaths, to preventing poor outcomes for the vulnerable elderly, to opening up **access** to health care. Their research is **funded** by a variety of sources, including the National Institute for Nursing Research, other federal agencies, foundations and **individuals**. These cameos highlight 11 of our faculty **engaged** in research.

Childhood Cancer: *The Risks After the Cure*

Mary Ann Cantrell '89 MSN, PhD, RN, CNE
Professor



“Cancer survivorship is a significant issue for the health of our nation. These survivors are a known high-risk population for chronic health problems that adversely affect their health status and health-related quality of life,” says Dr. Mary Ann Cantrell, whose research includes pedagogical studies on clinical simulation. With her is Nursing senior Stephanie Luff, a childhood cancer survivor and research study participant. Luff holds a photo taken while she was undergoing treatment for leukemia; she and her father are playing with a toy stethoscope.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in children ages 1 through 14. Significant improvements in the management of pediatric oncology patients have dramatically improved survival rates, resulting in a rapidly expanding population of former patients who live to become adults—an estimated 1 out of 250 adults. While the reported cure rate of pediatric cancer is almost 80 percent, one major concern is that these former patients are not fully healed—physically or psychologically. Dr. Mary Ann Cantrell wants to change that.

For the past 20 years, Dr. Cantrell has been conducting research on the improvement of care and health outcomes for pediatric oncology patients. With extensive experience in qualitative and quantitative research and more than 15 years’ clinical practice in pediatric oncology nursing, she has witnessed both the short- and long-term effects of cancer diagnoses on patients and families during and after treatment. Her research operationalizes recommendations in the Institute of Medicine’s report, “Childhood Cancer Survivorship: Improving Care and Quality of Life.” She is improving outcomes for these survivors, a group known to be at-risk for poor physical and psychosocial health outcomes. Her findings also have helped to improve nursing practice by explicating the psychosocial care needs for these patients.

Dr. Cantrell’s science has further evolved into the empirical investigation of female survivors’ health-related quality of life through the use and development of online research methods.

A Safe (Cyber)space for Children

Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, PhD, RN, FAAN
Professor

Interpersonal and domestic violence affect one in four Americans, with the majority being women and children. Through her research and teaching of pediatric nursing, Dr. Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell brings the often taboo subjects of violence, vulnerability and victimization into the awareness of current and future nurses who care for these victims. Studying and identifying the interrelationships among various forms of electronic aggression, including cyber-bullying and the new phenomena of sleep texting, this pioneering nurse scientist has made major contributions quantifying the health risks that vulnerable adolescents face. She also provides leadership on vital, compelling issues in child health. Her work has generated nationwide media coverage.

Dr. Dowdell's research updates the profile of high-risk youth and highlights the significance of the interrelationships among physical, sexual and emotional factors and electronic aggression when on the Internet. Her research has led to new strategies for risk profiling and understanding the perilous behaviors of children and adolescents associated with using the Internet, smart phones and social media. Dr. Dowdell's current grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention advances the science of children's risk behaviors by providing interdisciplinary professionals with resources to assess risk, educate children and parents, and plan future intervention studies to minimize risk. Her program of research promotes Internet safety across the lifespan and contributes to evidence-based practice outcomes.



“Health risks occur across a child’s life and environment, as well as now being online,” says Dr. Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell. Her studies of taboo topics and cyber dangers have drawn national media attention. Among her future research project topics is the influence of electronic aggression on high-risk individuals who have had victimization experiences.

Helping Patients Protect Their Kidneys

Tamara M. Kear '09 PhD, RN, CNS, CNN
Assistant Professor



Dr. Tamara M. Kear teaches patients hypertension management to safeguard their kidney function. “The researcher who is willing to develop the right tool and ask the right questions will find the best information directly from the expert—the patient living with the disease,” she observes.

You probably don't think much about your kidneys—those fist-sized, filtering and fluid-regulating organs in your abdomen. But Dr. Tamara M. Kear does. With over 25 years' expertise in caring for patients with chronic kidney disease, she focuses on hypertension, one factor in the rise of kidney disease. Ultimately, Dr. Kear wants to empower patients to take control of their health and prevent kidney disease, the eighth leading cause of death in the United States. She hopes to have a national and global impact.

Dr. Kear conducts research with vulnerable Haitian immigrants living in the Dominican Republic. She studies barriers to hypertension management and, with students from the College of Nursing, monitors the blood pressure of hundreds of adults and discusses risk factors, management and medications. Her study has informed revisions to the health assessment tool used by North American teams providing care to this population.

Back home, Dr. Kear is part of an Open Exchange Research project using social media site, PatientsLikeMe.com[®]. Via this web site, geographically diverse patients interested in research participate in the refinement of a tool she is developing for practitioners. This tool will help them see how patients are doing at home and identify any barriers in managing their hypertension. It is a simple instrument, one that asks patients what they are actually doing, a step that helps the practitioner quickly get a handle on any problems. It promises to be an effective one since it is derived with the input of patients who share their cumulative experience.

A Premie's Next Biggest Challenge

Michelle M. Kelly '94 BSN, '12 PhD, CRNP, RN
Clinical Assistant Professor

Children born prematurely now make up roughly 12 percent of U.S. births, an epidemic that continues to expand every year as scientific advances increase their survival rates. However, after they leave neonatal ICUs, many infants face health issues that impact their future growth and development.

Dr. Kelly's work evolved from her practice in pediatric intensive care and neonatology. She passionately advocates for increased understanding of the current outcomes of children born prematurely, as this knowledge will facilitate maximizing the potential for all children. Because prematurity is not a diagnosis with a defined list of resulting conditions, she gains an understanding of these children by identifying the occurrence of their special health-care needs as they age. Among the factors she studies through her quantitative research are working memory (remembering and processing information to carry out directions or learn) and health-related quality of life. The latter, now at the forefront of many medical outcome studies, focuses on the family- or child-centered perception of quality of life as it relates to health. Her goal is a brighter future for all children.

Adept in the Science of Simulation

Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN
Assistant Professor



Shown bedside with SimMan, one of the family of patient simulators used to teach clinical skills and judgment, Dr. Bette A. Mariani investigates topics related to simulation. Her efforts often build upon her work on instrument development and validation.

What's the best way for faculty to teach nursing students through innovative simulation before they enter clinical settings? To answer that broad question, Dr. Bette A. Mariani primarily uses quantitative methods. "Clinical simulation is important for the education of our students because it helps us to prepare nurses to enter a challenging profession. Providing safe, quality care for patients is essential," she observes. Dr. Mariani has conducted multiple studies to assess this interactive teaching and learning strategy for millennial learners. She aims not only to enhance their skills, but to make a difference in their learning outcomes of clinical judgment and reasoning—critical elements in nursing practice.

Dr. Mariani explores the importance of structured debriefing on student learning; the effectiveness of simulation for the teaching of quality and safety, including for medication administration; and the use of standardized patients (SPs) with disabilities to assess the attitudes of undergraduates before and after their experience with SPs. She collaborates with colleagues and the Main Line Health System to study the use of simulation as an educational strategy for nurses' clinical preparedness in pediatric emergencies. Additionally, she and her colleagues are extending simulation research with Spanish-speaking community health workers in Nicaragua through the testing of newly developed simulation scenarios and basic skills competency tools.

Brad Gellman



The journey for a vulnerable infant's survival does not end at the doors of the neonatal ICU. Dr. Michelle M. Kelly, a pediatric and neonatal nurse practitioner, knows that's where the next stage begins: maximizing ability for all children.

A Healthier Environment, *Globally and Locally*

Ruth McDermott-Levy '96 MSN, '08 PhD, RN
Assistant Professor

Environments, and life within those environments, captivate Dr. Ruth McDermott-Levy and fuel her research passion. Her area of nursing expertise is public health nursing with a focus on global and environmental health. Her program of research relies on qualitative methods to gain insight into the needs of vulnerable populations and to promote health access for them. Her early work used phenomenological methods to study the experiences of female Omani nursing students in the United States and after they return home, as well as strategies to promote U.S.-Omani student peer learning. In Philadelphia, she has studied the effectiveness of community health workers in Arab immigrant communities and provided breast health education to Arab-Muslim immigrant women. In Waslala, Nicaragua, she has engaged in a telehealth project to improve health-care access in remote regions.

Studying for a post-doctoral master's degree in public health, Dr. McDermott-Levy has gained greater insights into population-based research methods and environmental health. This summer, she will begin her next research project. She will use community-based participatory research methods to identify health concerns of a community in northeastern Pennsylvania that is undergoing fracking (the active extraction of natural gas using unconventional hydraulic fracturing). With the goal of healthy communities, through her science she promotes healthy environments to enhance quality of life and prevent disease.



A member of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association's Environmental Health Committee who has been recognized with a "Global Citizen" award, Dr. Ruth McDermott-Levy seeks to reduce environmental health risks. Through her scholarly work, she advocates for clean air and water. Her latest project will involve health concerns over fracking in Pennsylvania.

Innovating for Moms *and Their Babies*

Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC
Assistant Professor



"Women who fail to receive prenatal care or education are also more likely to have complex social backgrounds as well as pre-existing chronic health conditions such as anemia, hypertension and diabetes. This comes at a high cost in human and financial terms," notes Dr. Amy E. McKeever. In her practice in Philadelphia, she sees the socioeconomic barriers faced by low-income Latina patients.

Infant prematurity is the leading cause of neonatal death in the United States, resulting in 1 million deaths annually. Dr. Amy E. McKeever, a women's health nurse practitioner in obstetrics and gynecology, wants to get moms healthy *before* pregnancy and reduce infant mortality and morbidity. In her Philadelphia practice, she primarily sees low-income Latina women before, during and after pregnancy. Many face socioeconomic barriers to care, jeopardizing their health and the health of their children. Current research supports her observations that preterm birth and maternal and infant complications are related to the health of the mother. If the mother can be kept healthy before and between pregnancies, complications decrease.

Dr. McKeever, who has also done research related to cervical cancer risk reduction, is ultimately working toward developing a model of care and education for women in adolescence and young adulthood, a model that can reduce infant mortality and morbidity. With a goal of keeping moms healthy, this spring she is initiating a quantitative pilot study to assess the learning needs and barriers to care of a high-risk, low-income female population. Next, she will pursue a federal grant to investigate the efficacy of an enhanced prenatal model of care incorporating culturally appropriate, community peer pregnancy mentors and nurses. Later she will conduct a qualitative study to evaluate the experiences of the women in the program. In the end, she hopes to help transform prenatal care with interventions that reverse these alarming birth statistics and improve health outcomes for mothers and babies.

Serving Those Who Served Their Country

Helene Moriarty '77 BSN, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC
Professor and the Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz Jr.
Endowed Chair in Nursing Research

“It’s palpable, how you get a sense of the psychological and physical scars veterans have experienced through combat deployment. You have to appreciate the sacrifice and the burden of the impact of war on our veterans and their families,” says Dr. Helene Moriarty, who has been a nurse researcher at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center over the past 20 years. An expert in research methodologies, she primarily uses mixed methods and interdisciplinary teams in her funded studies focusing on clinical issues, such as chronic illness, patient safety and infection control. When possible, she incorporates a family focus, because the family plays a critical role in the health and illness of its members.

Currently, Dr. Moriarty and her colleague, Dr. Laraine Winter, are principal investigators on a study evaluating the impact of the innovative Veterans’ In-home Program (VIP) for veterans with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and their families. Funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Eunice Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the study addresses the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research priority of therapies and interventions to improve outcomes for veterans with mild to moderate TBI—the signature injury of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. TBI produces a broad range of cognitive, physical and psychosocial symptoms that compromise quality of life for veterans and the families that care for them. VIP is designed to promote community reintegration, improve quality of life and support functioning by realigning environmental demands to match the veterans’ abilities.



“It takes a village of scholars from different disciplines and perspectives to address complex health-care problems,” notes Dr. Helene Moriarty. Her participation in nursing research is her way of giving back to veterans and their families “for their enduring and profound sacrifices for our country.”

Decision Models for Home Health Care

Melissa O’Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, COS-C
Assistant Professor



When can an older patient move on from receiving skilled health care at home? In her groundbreaking study, Dr. Melissa O’Connor addresses that question as she targets a new area of decision support for home health discharge. “Today, there are no national, empirically derived decision-support tools regarding determining readiness for discharge,” she notes. “As evidence-based practice develops, research-based methods to support decision-making will become more common.”

The numbers are staggering. According to geriatric and home health care expert Dr. Melissa O’Connor, in 2011, 3.4 million Medicare beneficiaries received approximately 6.9 million skilled home health episodes, costing Medicare \$18.4 billion. Medicare defines an episode as the care received during a 60-day period. Medicare relies on home health clinicians and physicians to evaluate the needs of beneficiaries and to decide whether to discharge patients from skilled home health. Appropriate decisions are critical for the patient, family and payers—especially if that patient is an older adult with chronic illness and multiple co-morbidities. If older adults are discharged from home health too soon, poor outcomes can result, among them hospitalization, emergency department visits, shorter time to death, decline in functional status and reduced quality of life.

Decision support in nursing is an understudied but emerging area of science that can have great impact. It can play a key role in improving the care and health of these vulnerable adults by “developing a systematic, evidence-based mechanism to identify patients who are ready for discharge from home health services versus those who require additional home health episodes,” explains Dr. O’Connor. Through an interdisciplinary perspective, her pilot study will garner data about the factors considered important to determine readiness for discharge among older adults vulnerable for poor outcomes. After synthesizing her data, she will build a decision model associated with experts’ recommendations for discharge that can be implemented in home health nursing practice.

Compassion and *a Passion for Research*

Bing Bing Qi '94 MSN, PhD, RN
Assistant Professor

Many middle-aged and elderly Chinese women and men who emigrated to the United States at an older age may have had poor childhood nutrition. They may have thin body structures and experience difficulty accessing health care due to lack of finances, education, insurance and English skills. This vulnerable and hard-to-access population has a high risk of osteoporosis and low bone mineral density that can lead to pain, fractures, deformity, disability, costly rehabilitation, poor quality of life and even premature death.

Their plight is of great interest to Dr. Bing Bing Qi, a native of the People's Republic of China who earned her MSN at the College of Nursing and also her doctoral degree in the United States. She is concerned about this health issue because the traditional lifestyle modifications promoted in many U.S. health education programs are not effective for Chinese immigrants, due to differences in culture, language and existing access barriers. Her study of nutrition as it relates to exercise and osteoporosis in Chinese immigrants is of particular significance, given their high incidence of osteoporosis. These cultural factors have also contributed to researchers and policymakers giving insufficient attention to the problem.

Dr. Qi believes her passion and commitment, along with her scholarly inquiry directed toward the improvement of health care of Asian- and Chinese-Americans, will lead to more culturally sensitive, appropriate health education and interventions, as well as the allocation of needed resources for the health of this population.

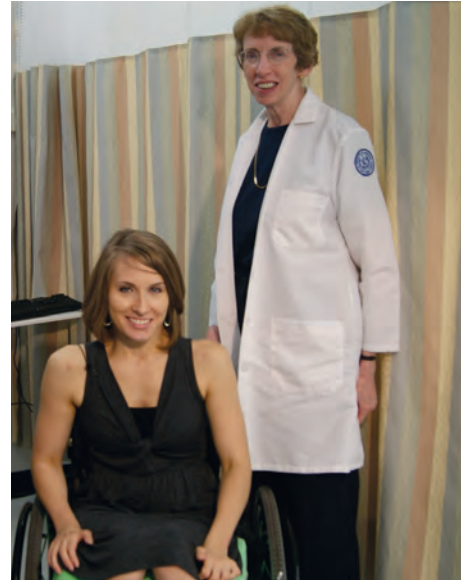


John Shetron

As a volunteer, Dr. Bing Bing Qi (right) offers free education programs to Chinese immigrants in Philadelphia, programs based on her research findings. Her ultimate goal is to improve the health status of Asian-Americans.

Leveling the Field *for Those with Disabilities*

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, FAAN
Professor and Director, Center for Nursing Research



“Ask the person with a disability about his or her disability. They want you to ask and consider it in order to get the best care,” advises Dr. Suzanne C. Smeltzer. With her is Kate Matalan, a standardized patient who was assisting with a simulation.

Nursing research improves patient care. But what if patients—especially those with a disability—can't even access that care? Disability will affect one in four Americans. It is estimated that there are at least 60 million Americans with a disability. Who is their voice?

Dr. Suzanne C. Smeltzer is an internationally recognized scholar and author in the area of health care and health-care access for those with disabilities. With the aging of the population, plus increased survival rates for those with developmental disabilities, illnesses and trauma, this is a group that is growing in number. “It's the largest group facing health disparities. We need to address it,” she notes.

Her research has demonstrated that people with disabilities are not happy with the care they receive in hospitals, and often cannot physically access or are not offered the same level of care as others. This includes health screening and health promotion. Through qualitative and quantitative studies funded by private foundations and federal and disability-related agencies, Dr. Smeltzer has used the outcomes of her research to advocate for people with disabilities and to abolish disparities in care. In parallel, she investigates knowledge and attitudes of nurses and disability-related content in the College's graduate and undergraduate curricula. She has incorporated people with disabilities into clinical simulations, enabling them to use their own voices in effectively advocating for quality care through interactions with Nursing students. She further advances the agenda by leveraging her position on national task forces and organizations to encourage the development of competencies among those providing care to individuals with disabilities. •

Expansion of Student Research STRENGTHENS Clinical Preparation

Pain management, telehealth, risky behaviors and nutrition for pregnant adolescents are among the projects Nursing students are investigating, guided by faculty mentors.

At the College of Nursing and across Villanova University, research opportunities are increasing for students, both undergraduates and graduate students. As part of the University's strategic plan to inspire current and future generations to achieve academic excellence, develop intellectual curiosity and deepen their compassion for others, Villanova's Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF) funds highly competitive summer fellowships. CURF supports the concepts that any academic field has research potential and that students are capable of gathering and creating new knowledge, learning the research methods in their discipline, exploring new ways of thinking and entering into professional dialogue with faculty as well as peers.

Villanova Nursing has always encouraged research throughout the curriculum, with a strong emphasis in the graduate program and as a cornerstone of the PhD program. Undergraduate research is increasing in visibility and prestige, for both students and faculty. Projects undertaken with faculty mentors provide Nursing undergraduates with the opportunity to participate actively in meaningful research. They learn the processes of scholarly discovery and how to disseminate their results, thereby gaining preparation for positions in health-care systems that are now including research as part of the clinical role.

Although CURF's summer Villanova University Research Fellowship (VURF) has been open to all undergraduates for a decade, the first two Nursing students were funded in 2012. Joseph J. Dovidio III '13 BSN explored "Driving to Distraction and Beyond: A Secondary Analysis of Teen Drivers and Risk Taking Behaviors" and Aurora Vandewark (now a senior) investigated the growing interest in and research about breastfeeding. Their projects were featured in the Spring 2013 issue. In 2013 more than 70 Villanova students applied for VURFs; senior Schuyler Bates Perez became the third Nursing student to be funded.

This spring, CURF is launching a groundbreaking pilot program to pair eligible second-semester freshmen with faculty mentors. The goal is to support and increase the students' visibility, prestige and participation in research, with the understanding that research takes different forms in different disciplines. Two Nursing faculty members will take part in this new University program: Professor



In the Dominican Republic during Fall Break 2013, Nursing juniors Sarah Lamp (center) and Liz Long (right) assist in giving out deworming medications.

Elizabeth Burgess Dowdell, PhD, RN, FAAN and Assistant Professor Melissa O'Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, COS-C.

The following are just a few examples of recent scholarly work by undergraduates.

Teddy Fitzpatrick '13 BSN, a recent graduate of the second-degree accelerated BSN program, collaborated with Assistant Professor Ruth McDermott-Levy '96 MSN, '08 PhD, RN as she validated findings of the study: "Community Health Worker Use of Cell Phones in a Telehealth Project" in Nicaragua. As a returning Peace Corps volunteer, Fitzpatrick was a Paul D. Coverdell Fellow.

Juniors Sarah Lamp and Elizabeth "Liz" Long are working with Assistant Professor Tamara M. Kear '09 PhD, RN, CNS, CNN in analyzing the data they helped her collect on health behaviors among Haitian women living in the Dominican Republic. Dr. Kear is their faculty mentor for the spring course, Guided Study: Seminars in Nursing Research. Lamp and Long accompanied her in February to the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester to present at the 2nd Annual Batey Medicine Symposium. The two students are seeing the research process from collection of data, to analysis, to creation of a presentation, to dissemination of findings. Notes Long, "I believe all the opportunities that the College of Nursing faculty have provided me with to pursue research are what make Villanova so unique. The faculty here truly care about making their students' interests in research a reality."



Interested in health promotion internationally, Nursing senior Elizabeth “Liz” Yates during Spring Break went to Waslala, Nicaragua, for a clinical experience.

Junior Julie Suter is working with Professor Mary Ann Cantrell ’89 MSN, PhD, RN, CNE on “The College Experience for Childhood Cancer Survivors.” Aiming to gain an understanding of these survivors’ experiences transitioning to college and as undergraduates, Suter will conduct focus group interviews with Villanova undergraduates.

Vandewark, working with Clinical Assistant Professor Michelle M. Kelly ’94 BSN, ’12 PhD, CRNP, RN, has had an article accepted by *The Journal of Perinatal Education*. Titled “Breastfeeding Attitudes & Knowledge in BSN Candidates,” it is based on the work Vandewark did the summer before her junior year (funded with a VURF), and then replicated during her independent study last spring.

Senior Elizabeth “Liz” Yates’ independent study analyzes the incidence and treatment of Parkinson’s Disease in Nicaragua, guided by Assistant Professor Elizabeth K. Keech ’66 BSN, PhD, RN. Yates incorporated this study into her health promotion project this spring in Waslala, focusing on complementary measures since there is little Western medicine available.

Dr. Dowdell is mentoring several undergraduates in research. Bates Perez, who received a VURF for her proposal, “*Acciones Peligrosas: A Secondary Analysis of Hispanic Students and Risk Behaviors*,” is looking at data from Dr. Dowdell’s 2009 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Bates Perez ran additional statistical exams on the subset of Hispanic college students who drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, partake in substance use and engage in other related risky behaviors. She presented at the 2013 VURF Poster Session and this spring represented the College at the Eastern Nursing Research Society Scientific Sessions.

Brianne Clayton is the senior research assistant on Dr. Dowdell’s project on “Self-Exploitation and Electronic Aggression: High Risk Internet Behaviors in Adolescents,” funded in 2010 by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Clayton assisted with data management and preparation for dissemination. Her highly developed skill set includes Excel, SPSS and Word formatting, as well as a professional and ethical approach to the nature of the data. Last November, Clayton

accompanied Dr. Dowdell to Indianapolis for Sigma Theta Tau’s 42nd Biennial Convention.

Long is the junior research assistant on Dr. Dowdell’s 2010 grant. She did extensive literature reviews and information analysis of what is known and not known. She worked over the summer and into the fall finding data-driven literature on texting while driving, sleep texting, electronic aggression and cyber-bullying.

EXAMPLES OF DNP PROJECT AND PHD RESEARCH

Megan O’Regan Coleman ’93 BSN, ’13 DNP, RN, CRNP, AOCNP, a member of the inaugural cohort of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program, is an oncology nurse practitioner with Penn Wissahickon Home Care and Hospice’s Cancer Longitudinal Advanced Illness Management (CLAIM) project. As she assists “in transitions of care through the cancer illness trajectory,” she explains, she is inspired by her patients, who teach her about courage and strength.

Last September she was recognized with the Clinical Innovation Award for her DNP project, “An APN Home Care Intervention: Implementing Evidence-Based Coping Mechanisms for Breast Cancer Patients,” at the 6th National Doctors of Nursing Practice Conference in Phoenix, Ariz. Dr. Coleman explains that her observations over the past 14 years in oncology practice have led to this study. “The psychosocial needs of oncology patients are often not addressed at the time of consultation,” she notes. “I have also found that there is a link between psychosocial distress and an increase in emotional and physical symptoms. These symptoms can lead to delays in treatment, an increase in anxiety and an overuse of the health-care resources available.” Her project aimed at helping the patient gain “enhanced coping skills to assist in adapting to this breast cancer diagnosis. Through education and discussion regarding coping, the patient will have an improved sense of well-being and quality of life.”



One of the first seven students to earn her DNP from the College, for her doctoral project Megan O’Regan Coleman ’93 BSN, ’13 DNP, RN, CRNP, AOCNP earned the Clinical Innovation Award last September from the National Doctors of Nursing Practice organization.

Jo Ann Platko ’13 PhD, CRNA, BC last fall defended her dissertation, a quantitative study on “Nursing Students’ Beliefs and Attitudes Regarding Pain Management Knowledge Across Educational Levels.” A nurse anesthetist in New Rochelle, N.Y., Platko is a Jonas Scholar (see page 13). Pain is a primary reason patients seek medical treatment. Nurses can be overwhelmed with the task of effectively evaluating and treating patients’ pain. Nursing educators and administrators go to great lengths to ensure that students are given pertinent and factual information regarding

pain management. In spite of this, ineffective pain control continues to be a serious health condition. No previous studies had focused on the level of nursing education and the attitudes and knowledge students possess on this topic.

Platko examined knowledge and attitudes on pain management across the prelicensure RN educational levels: diploma, associate degree and baccalaureate. She also looked into the effect prior pain experience, age, gender and ethnicity had on the nursing students' perception and knowledge. Her purposive sample of seniors from different types of nursing programs in northeastern and central Pennsylvania made use of the Nurses' Knowledge and Attitude Survey Regarding Pain (NKASRP) and a demographic data sheet she developed. Platko found that most students were satisfied with their nursing program's abilities to educate them to assess, manage and treat their patients' pain.

Nancy Wise '09 MSN, RN, a student in the PhD in Nursing Program, in her dissertation is investigating "Nutrition Knowledge, Healthy Eating Behaviors and Personal Self-Efficacy in Pregnant Adolescents." Wise, who has a background in maternal/child health, is keenly interested in the barriers pregnant teens face in consuming a healthy diet. She will conduct her study in central Pennsylvania, among pregnant teens enrolled in high school and/or health-care-based support programs. She seeks to determine if there is a difference in their nutrition knowledge, healthy eating behaviors and personal self-efficacy immediately after they take part in an interactive nutrition workshop and then six weeks later in post-intervention.



A PhD in Nursing student, Nancy Wise '09 MSN, RN is studying pregnant teens in central Pennsylvania and the barriers they face in consuming a healthy diet.

The typical diet of pregnant adolescents is low in essential nutrients and energy. They frequently skip meals and rely heavily on high-fat, high-sugar foods. This impacts not only fetal outcome but also influences disease risk as the infants mature. Infants who are underweight at birth are at increased risk for obesity and its associated co-morbidities during their adult life. Maternal over- or under-nutrition can reduce placental blood flow, which can lead to fetal growth stunting and alterations in gene expression. These adaptations predispose the offspring to metabolic, endocrine and cardiovascular disease later in life.

"Strategies that serve to promote skill building," Wise explains, "include interactive cooking and taste-testing of healthy foods, providing healthy recipes, adolescent-friendly cookbooks and tips from a parenting adolescent who was proactive about healthy eating during her pregnancy. These strategies will be incorporated to increase participants' personal self-efficacy of healthy eating and sustain long-term healthy eating behavior, and are critical to the aim of this intervention." •

Jonas Scholars Advance Nursing Through Their Doctoral Research

Three PhD in Nursing students were selected as Jonas Scholars by the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence. The center, established by the Barbara and Donald Jonas Family Fund in 2006, uses philanthropy to advance the nursing profession through grants and programs designed to develop outstanding faculty, advance scholarship and spark innovative practice.

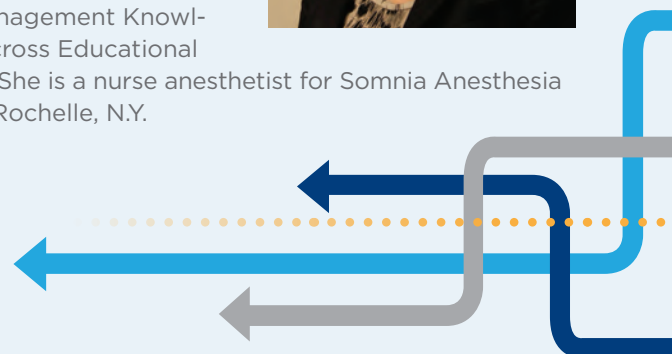
KAREN GOLDSCHMIDT, MSN, RN, supported through the College's partnership with the Jonas Center, is due to complete her degree requirements this year. Her dissertation is "Professional Transformation of Students Engaged in an Online RN-to-BSN Degree Completion Program." At Drexel University in Philadelphia, Goldschmidt is assistant clinical professor and department chair for the RN-BSN Online Degree Completion Program in the College of Nursing and Health Professions.



KELLY REILLY, MSN, RN-BC, CHSE, also supported through the College's partnership with the Jonas Center, is due to complete her degree requirements in 2015. Her dissertation is "Using High Fidelity Simulation in Nurse Manager Leadership Development." Reilly is director of Nursing Simulation at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.



JO ANN PLATKO '13 PHD, CRNA, BC, supported through the National League for Nursing's partnership with the Jonas Center, in December 2013 successfully defended her dissertation, "Nursing Students' Beliefs and Attitudes Regarding Pain Management Knowledge Across Educational Levels." She is a nurse anesthetist for Somnia Anesthesia in New Rochelle, N.Y.



COPE Promotes Healthy Futures

To help improve the health of fourth graders in area schools, Villanova Nursing's MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education (COPE) has received a one-year grant from Independence Blue Cross (IBC) Foundation's Healthy Futures Initiative. COPE's role is to conduct focus groups and provide nutrition expertise as part of this initiative, which is designed to improve the weight, health, and eating and exercise habits of these pupils. Initial enrollment will include students in five schools in Philadelphia and the counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery. Parents of those selected will be invited to become involved in the nutrition assessment component.

The long-term plan is to track and follow these elementary school students for three years and measure changes in weight, body mass index, and knowledge and attitudes about food and fitness.

IBC Foundation's mission—to transform health care through innovation in the communities it serves—is closely aligned with COPE's mission of serving as a model for education and research that promotes healthy weight management and preventing and reducing obesity-related disease across the lifecycle. COPE's leaders, including the director, Erin Winterhalter, MPH, RD, LDN, CDE, and the program manager, Rebecca Shenkman, MPH, RDN, LDN, will see the grant to its completion. •

College Once Again Named Center of Excellence

For the fourth consecutive time, the College of Nursing has been designated a Center of Excellence (COE) by the National League for Nursing (NLN), recognized for "Creating Environments that Advance the Science of Nursing Education." The College was among the first three schools to receive inaugural designation in 2004. Dean M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, cites the designation as "public acknowledgment of the stellar achievements of our faculty, the professional performance

of our alumni, and the quality of our undergraduate and graduate programs."

This year, Mary-Claire Rocha '13 BSN, RN won the NLN's Student Excellence Paper Competition. It gives students enrolled in COE schools the opportunity to share their thoughts on the meaning of excellence in nursing education, what fosters excellence and what it means to be a part of a COE-designated school. Both Rocha and the College were recognized last September as part of the NLN 2013 Education Summit, held in Washington, D.C. •

Distinguished Visitors from Oman See a Nursing Partnership in Action



Officials from the Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Health and Ministry of Higher Education visited the College of Nursing in October 2013. They met with Dean Fitzpatrick, faculty and Omani students who are enrolled in the College's programs. For more than 20 years, the College and the Sultanate have collaborated on nursing education projects. Seen here with Omani students are (seated, from left) Dr. Said Al Ghenaimi '01 BSN, '05 MSN, tutor, Oman Nursing Institute; Dr. Salem Said Jarooof Al Touby, dean,

Oman Nursing Institute; Dr. Moustafa Fahmy Mohamed, dean, Oman Pharmacy Institute; Dr. Abdullah Rashid Al-Battashi, dean, A'Dahira Nursing Institute; and Dr. Majid al-Maqbali '01 BSN, '05 MSN, director of Nursing and Midwifery Affairs. Those standing include Lesley A. Perry, PhD, associate dean of Nursing (left); Franklin A. Shaffer, EdD, RN, FAAN (fourth from left), CEO of CGFNS International; and Dean Fitzpatrick (fifth from left). Not pictured: Dr. Esra Khasawneh, assistant dean, Sultan Qaboos University. •

Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Graduates First Class

December 2013 was a joyous month for the seven accomplished Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students who completed their two-year program. The Class of 2013 was comprised of nurse anesthetists and nurse practitioners, all of whom continued to work as advanced practice nurses—from Connecticut to South Carolina—while in the program. As part of this practice-focused doctoral program, offered primarily through distance learning, each student completed a DNP project related to his or her work environment. The program emphasizes broad systems thinking to facilitate the design and implementation of models of patient care and clinical practice. Visit villanova.edu/nursing/dnp for the list of their projects. •



The inaugural graduates of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program are (from left) Michele “Micki” Ballister ’08 MSN, ’13 DNP, CRNA; Jenny Lynn ’13 DNP, CRNP; Betty Naimoli ’13 DNP, CRNP; Matthew McCoy ’05 MSN, ’13 DNP, CRNA; Janet Dunn ’13 DNP, RN, APN, ACNP-BC; Meghan O’Regan Coleman ’93 BSN, ’13 DNP, RN, CRNP, AOCNP; and Penny McEvoy ’13 DNP, APRN, ANP-BC.

CE Partnership Aims to Close Gaps in Care

The federal Affordable Care Act promotes organizing health-care teams around patient needs, following a delivery model known as accountable care organizations (ACOs). To train nurses and social workers to become effective care coordinators within ACOs, last fall the College’s Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care Program (CE), along with the Massachusetts Hospital Association (MHA) and The Geneia Institute, launched “Coordinating Care in a Fragmented System,” an innovative, 10-week certificate program.

Population health management requires a different set of clinical skills than does traditional acute care. ACO clinicians, who work closely with patients and their health-care teams to close gaps in care, are one of the critical success factors for this delivery model. This new CE program draws from the real-world experience of care managers

at Geneia (a health-care innovations company based in Harrisburg), validated through the collaboration of its institute and the College of Nursing. The program combines in-person and online learning to teach clinicians how to effectively manage populations to improve health outcomes and patient satisfaction, while also reducing costs.

The partnership follows the CE program’s achievement last August of being awarded Accreditation with Distinction from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). “We have been nationally accredited for over 25 years, but this is the first opportunity we have had to receive this new designation,” noted Lynore DeSilets, EdD, RN-BC, assistant dean and director of CE. “It is an honor to be recognized by ANCC for our commitment to continuous improvement and the highest quality continuing education for nurses.” •

Population health management requires a different set of clinical skills than does traditional acute care.



Meet Four New Members of the Board of Consultants

The College of Nursing's Board of Consultants serves in an advisory capacity to the dean and provides an external perspective on matters that affect the nursing profession, the College and its strategic direction.

Although the term of its immediate past chairperson, Richard J. Kreider '83 VSB, has concluded, his service to the College has not. He is representing the board on Villanova University's President's Campaign Committee. Pamela Cembrook, a member since 2010 and the mother of two Villanova alumnae and one current Nursing student, is the new chairperson.

For a full listing of the board's members and additional profiles, visit villanova.edu/nursing.

"VILLANOVANS ARE INCREDIBLE NURSES AND LEADERS IN GENERAL."

Running the top children's hospital in the country could be all about big numbers: managing more than 11,000 staff and a \$2 billion budget. For **Madeline McCarthy Bell '83 BSN**, president and chief operating officer of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), it is really about the mission of providing excellent care to children and advancing pediatric health care through research and professional education. Bell has leveraged a wealth of clinical and operational experience, along with her education that includes a master's degree in organizational dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania, to become a creative leader recognized internationally for innovations in pediatric operations management, public policy and family-centered care.

At CHOP, Bell moved from positions of bedside care to a variety of executive roles overseeing the growth and development of the largest pediatric network in the nation, as well as managing the revenue cycle and various clinical services. She has been COO since 2007 and president since 2010. Last November she received a *Philadelphia Business Journal* "2013 Women of Distinction" award.

Bell joined the College of Nursing's Board of Consultants last October. She sees her service as a special relationship. "Villanova was a big part of shaping who I am," she explains. "CHOP is run by Villanova nurses in so many leadership positions that it's a way for us to give back as an organization." She is impressed that Dean Fitzpatrick has kept the College on the cutting-edge. "To be part of that legacy is really appealing," she observes.

"As a Villanova student you learn the importance of leadership in the community and the profession," notes Bell. "Villanovans are incredible nurses and leaders in general. Villanova nurses are in every place at CHOP, including the chief nursing officer (Paula Agosto '85 BSN), directors and managers." How does that nurse-leader perspective influence daily operations? "I understand the clinical component of our workforce. I have a situational awareness of what that means. I carry it with me every day and it helps me make mission-driven decisions," she replies.

Bell's days are busy. She is married to Louis Bell, MD, chief of general pediatrics at CHOP, and is a mother of seven. Balancing home and work includes community service on the local, national and global levels. She is an advisor to numerous projects internationally, including the development of a children's hospital in Ireland, as well as being an urban planning community leader and a national leader in pediatric public policy and government relations. She serves on the board of the Children's Hospital Association and chairs its Public Policy Committee. In 2007, the College awarded her its Medallion for Distinguished Leadership in Administration of Health Care Services.

As COO, Bell oversees the operations of a world-renowned pediatric health system comprised of not only a 520-bed tertiary teaching hospital and a large primary care and specialty care network but also a research institute, a rehabilitation hospital, home care, and surgical and oncology day hospital centers, plus 11 community hospital partners. That scope gives



Recognized internationally for her innovations, Madeline McCarthy Bell '83 BSN is president and chief operating officer of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

her a broad—and valuable—view that she is ready to share with the Board of Consultants to support the dean's efforts. She says, "I hope to bring perspective as to what an academic medical center will need in the future, in terms of workforce, education and curriculum; to be another input from outside academia, saying 'Here's how we see it coming from 13,000 employees and a national platform.'" In short, Bell notes, "I hope to inform the strategic plan of the College."

“I HAVE THE UTMOST RESPECT FOR THOSE IN THE NURSING PROFESSION.”

The service of **Edward T. Joel '83 LAS** on the Board of Consultors reflects his lifelong admiration and respect for the field of nursing. His family ties to the nursing profession, and to Villanova University, go back to his childhood.

Joel is chief compliance officer for Elliott Management Corporation, a global investment advisory firm based in New York City. A political science major at Villanova, he earned his JD at Seton Hall University School of Law. He is the eldest son of nursing legend Lucille A. Joel, EdD, RN, FAAN, Distinguished Professor in the College of Nursing at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, in Newark. Dr. Joel is a past president of the American Nurses Association and the New Jersey State Nurses Association, as well as the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools. She is active at the international level and is a past Distinguished Lecturer at Villanova's College of Nursing.

He notes, “As a child I can vividly recall attending numerous nursing conventions at both the state and national level with my seven siblings. It provided each of us with the unique opportunity to travel as a family and actively campaign for our mom, while also meeting a countless number of very interesting people from throughout the nursing profession. As a result of attending these wonderful events, we developed many longstanding relationships with my mom's good friends, including Louise [Fitzpatrick].” Joel says he was always both proud and amazed at how engaged his mother was in her field, how energized she was by it and, most importantly, how much she loved nursing. This level of commitment truly fascinated him. Early on he learned about “the significant time and effort it takes to become a nurse. I can honestly say that I have the utmost respect for those in the nursing profession, and have admired the field for as long as I can remember.”

Joel and his wife, Maureen, have three children; reside in Ho-Ho-Kus, N.J.; and take great pride in the fact that one of their daughters, Anne, is a Nursing junior at Villanova. Since his graduation, he has remained involved with the University through his longstanding friendships, advocating for prospective students, as a Parent Ambassador, a member of the President's Club and a regular guest at the College's Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony. He is honored and delighted to support the College through his service on the Board of Consultors.

Of his fellow board members, he says, “They are an extremely intelligent, diverse and committed group that come from various walks of life, with each bringing an invaluable perspective to the table; I'm truly impressed by each of them. There's a great chemistry among the board members, and that undoubtedly creates a tremendous platform upon which to help ensure that the College is in a position to get to the next level.”

Joel views the intricacies of the College through the lens of his daughter, and that of the nursing profession through the lens of his mother. “It's challenged Anne to her utmost limits,” he says of the curriculum, “and she continues to pursue it with an unyielding commitment.” He notes how much time Nursing students sacrifice to do well in the rigors of the program. He has great respect for the administration and faculty of the College, and sees their vision and focus directly reflected in the vast opportunities afforded students and graduates of the College, opportunities that have grown exponentially over the years. He knows this is a truly worthwhile investment. “I see her passion for nursing,” he says, describing his daughter's attitude, reminiscent of his mother's. This animates his future work with the board. He explains, “I consider this a unique opportunity to further raise the profile of the College, to make a real difference, to raise necessary funds and to continue to attract students of the highest caliber.”



Through his mother, who is a prominent nurse educator and leader, and his daughter, who is a junior at the College of Nursing, Edward T. Joel '83 LAS says he has admired the field “for as long as I can remember.”



Jane Morro Mullany '80 BSN has expertise in fund-raising and board and leadership development. She worked at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for 22 years.

“OVER THE YEARS I STILL FELT CONNECTED TO THE UNIVERSITY...”

Jane Morro Mullany '80 BSN, a generous donor and member of the Board of Consultors, is proud of her association with Villanova University and the College of Nursing.

After graduation she began her career at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). “Having the opportunity to go to Villanova and the College of Nursing, then CHOP, really shaped my professional life and meant a great deal on both personal and professional levels,” she notes. “Over the years I still felt connected to the University with so many Villanovans at CHOP and the faculty and Nursing students who were there. That partnership is as strong as ever,” she notes.

Mullany took some time off when her two sons (John '13 MA and Mark '15 LAS) were born. She worked at CHOP over a 22-year span, starting in critical care then moving into positions as a head nurse, administrator and staff development educator and later coordinated family-centered care efforts. While she left CHOP as an employee in 2002, she remains a fund-raising volunteer there.

“The theme of children and families is reflected in all I've done,” Mullany explains. A trustee for Woodlynde School in Strafford, Pa. (her sons are graduates), she is the former chairperson of its board and enjoys the strategic planning aspects of the trustee role. She remarks, “So much of what I learned at Villanova and CHOP positively influenced my work with children and families.” Simultaneously, Mullany served on the board of the Philadelphia Foundation. Being on its program committee helped her learn the dynamics of smaller nonprofits and the true impact of grassroots organizations. Her experience over the last 15 years as a volunteer in

health care and education motivated her to become an entrepreneur. She established JMM Consulting LLC, a Valley Forge, Pa.-based business that works with nonprofits to ensure their sustainability. Her expertise includes both fund-raising and board and leadership development.

Through her cousin Capt. (Ret.) Maryalice Morro '83 BSN, who also is a member of the Board of Consultors and serves on the board of the Villanova University Alumni Association, Mullany continued to learn about the College's growth. In attending events, she noted “the wonderful way the College prepares students for a complex clinical environment and health-care system.” Inspired by the Augustinian values that are a “very real part of everyday life at Villanova,” she is moved to “give back” to her alma mater. She and her husband, Hank, have established the Mullany Scholarship. The fund will provide financial support to academically talented

“So much of what I learned at Villanova and CHOP positively influenced my work with children and families.”

— Jane Morro Mullany
'80 BSN



full-time Nursing undergraduates with demonstrated financial need.

Mullany sees a bright future for the College and hopes that by serving as a consultor she will be part of its growth. She explains, “I want to support Louise [Fitzpatrick] in her vision and help it continue.”

“IT IS EASY TO SEE WHY THE UNIVERSITY IS WIDELY KNOWN FOR TURNING OUT WORLD-CLASS NURSES.”

“As soon as I step on the Villanova campus, I’m inspired and invigorated. Villanova has played a significant role in my life and I am so grateful for the experiences I had there,” says **Sharon Patterson Turner ’82 VSB**. As a member of the College of Nursing’s Board of Consultants, she brings years of public and private accounting and operations experience.

Although Turner left the accounting profession when her children were born in the 1990s, she remained active as a community volunteer, working closely with the Harrisburg Diocese. Her involvement with Catholic Charities reflects her passion for children and education, as evidenced by her dedication to Lourdeshouse Maternity Home, which provides shelter and services to pregnant women. Turner also has been very involved with fund-raising for parish schools and has remained active with her high school.

“The people I met at Villanova have been lifelong friends,” Turner explains, “and when I launched my career in Philadelphia, there were alumni who supported me in achieving my goals.” Her involvement with the University now focuses on the College of Nursing. Her daughter Gillian is a Nursing junior and a member of the Villanova Emergency Medical Services (VEMS) team.

“Gillian is so passionate about being a nurse,” Turner says of her daughter, who wants to work in pediatrics. “At Villanova, she finds herself challenged every day and her clinical experiences are invaluable. It is easy to see why the University is widely known for turning out world-class nurses.” Turner recalls Gillian’s recent global health experience in the Dominican Republic and

how the Nursing faculty supervised and executed plans to ensure maximum impact.

Turner is impressed by what she sees at the College and is eager to assist through her role on the board as well as through financial support. Her family has long embraced the philosophy of providing scholarships in the local community for students to receive faith-based education, “giving them a chance to thrive by reducing the financial burden,” she notes. She and

“The people I met at Villanova have been lifelong friends, and when I launched my career in Philadelphia, there were alumni who supported me in achieving my goals.”

— Sharon Patterson Turner ’82 VSB



her husband, Lee, established the Dean M. Louise Fitzpatrick Endowed Scholarship and encourage others to contribute to it or establish their own scholarship to honor someone special from their Villanova experience. “Dean Louise Fitzpatrick is such a dynamic leader,” Turner observes. “She has enhanced the College tremendously, initiated graduate programs and much more. She has really put the Nursing school on the map nationally and internationally.”

She adds, “The College of Nursing is on an upward trajectory, and I want to see it continue....It’s an exciting time.” •



A dedicated volunteer with Catholic Charities, Sharon Patterson Turner ’82 VSB, along with her husband, Lee, has generously supported Villanova Nursing scholarships. Their daughter Gillian is a junior at the College.

IBC Intern Gains Experience, from Policy to Patients

Independence Blue Cross (IBC) and the IBC Foundation have been steadfast supporters of nurses, nursing education and the College of Nursing, providing funding and summer internship opportunities for undergraduates and scholarships for Nursing Education graduate students. The College thanks IBC and its foundation for their contributions to the education of nurses who must practice and teach in an increasingly complex environment.

Serving 2.2 million in the Philadelphia region alone, IBC and its foundation have made efforts to enhance the health and wellness of the communities they serve. They also recognize the importance of providing these communities with well-educated professionals, and so offer nursing students a glimpse into a different side of health care they might not see during their education. IBC launched its Nurse Internship Program in 2005, assigning students to nonprofit, privately funded community health centers to gain practical clinical experience.

Last summer, Katie Magargee, from Bryn Mawr, Pa., was looking for a community-based summer internship before her senior

year at the College of Nursing. She found it when she was accepted into the Nurse Internship Program.

In Fairmount, a primarily African-American/Latino neighborhood of Philadelphia, Magargee was assigned to a nonprofit organization that provides medical care, dental care and social work services to underserved patients, including uninsured and homeless individuals. At Fairmount Primary Care Center (FPCC), she gained clinical experience with triaging patients, administering immunizations and performing EKGs. Magargee also had a rare opportunity to be involved in policy making: She collaborated with staff to create standing orders for diabetic hemoglobin A1C testing as well as asthmatic spirometry testing to enhance efficiency of care.

At the time, FPCC was in the process of becoming a certified Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH), which aims to deliver team-based health care, improved quality of care and improved access to care. On a daily basis, as emergency rooms faxed discharge papers for patients, it was Magargee's responsibility to contact these

patients, monitor their health status, reconcile their medications and schedule follow-up appointments as part of transitional care management. She also aided in improving the overall health of nine patients with diabetes in just a few weeks of contacting them and providing proper follow-up and diabetes education.

An elderly man with a diabetic foot ulcer, in particular, benefited from her work. After many calls to his insurance company, a home health-care company and a member of his family, she received authorization for him to receive physical therapy and assistance with activities of daily living. "Knowing that my efforts may have prevented future foot ulcers or hospitalizations for this man made me have so much pride in the nursing profession," Magargee recalls.

Having completed her IBC internship, Magargee feels more confident as she prepares to enter the workforce next year. She plans to develop her nursing skills and have a greater impact on her community, hoping one day to become a family nurse practitioner in a primary care setting. •



Last summer at Philadelphia's Fairmount Primary Care Center, senior Katie Magargee (left) improved the health of diabetes patients and monitored patients discharged from ERs. Here she lunches with others from the Nurse Internship Program sponsored by IBC and the IBC Foundation.

"Knowing that my efforts may have prevented future foot ulcers or hospitalizations for this man made me have so much pride in the nursing profession."

—Katie Magargee,
Nursing senior



Villanovans “Join Forces” with Nurse Scientists in Germany

Across time and distance, a dozen interdisciplinary Villanovans connect with the largest American military hospital outside the United States—Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) in southwest Germany. These Villanova faculty, staff and alumni communicate via e-mail and meet in monthly teleconferences with the nurse scientists and staff of LRMC’s Center for Nursing Science and Clinical Inquiry (CNSCI).

While a formalized relationship may be pending, currently the Villanovans volunteer, consulting as colleagues on scholarly projects that relate to their scholarly interests and expertise and those of the CNSCI staff. The nurse scientists at this U.S. Army/Department of Defense medical center in Kaiserslautern are six hours ahead and a continent away from Villanova, but technology makes communication as easy as physically being present in the same room.

LRMC is known for its care of wounded and ill troops transported from such “down range” locations as Afghanistan and for its care of American military members and their dependents in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. The CNSCI, less than three years after its establishment, has evolved from the dreams and goals of military nurse leaders into a thriving center that has seen more than 20 evidence-based practice projects completed or under way. They range from childbearing issues to care of combat injuries.

The Villanova connection began in July 2013. U.S. Army Col. Lori Trego, PhD, CNM, ARNP, director of the CNSCI, and nurse scientists Lt. Col. Susan Hopkinson, PhD, MN; Lt. Col. Betty Garner, PhD, ARNP; and their colleagues worked with Carol Toussie Weingarten, PhD, RN, ANEF, associate professor of Nursing, who chairs the project with LRMC. Dr. Weingarten was there as a civilian volunteer consultant to the medical center’s Department of Nursing. The invitation to continue scholarly communication after her return to Villanova inspired Dr. Weingarten to introduce fellow Villanovans to LRMC’s nurse scientists and staff. An



Via big screen and laptop, Nursing colleagues teleconference monthly with American military nurse scientists at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Shown during this December 2013 session are (from left) Dr. Carol Toussie Weingarten, PhD, RN, ANEF, associate professor; Barbara Quintiliano, research design librarian; and Helene Moriarty '77 BSN, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, professor and the Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz Jr. Endowed Chair in Nursing Research.

informal, ongoing relationship was born. The College of Nursing was already part of the White House National Joining Forces Initiative, and a project like this found much support. In addition, U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps Capt. Elizabeth Hoettels, who is part of the group, introduced Villanova to LRMC when she was the featured speaker at a special “Joining Forces” program at Villanova in October 2012.

Building on a wide network of Villanova experts, the group has expanded, and new members join according to the type of expertise needed. There has also been growth in learning and understanding, ideas for possible joint projects, and friendships that bridge military and civilian settings. Dr. Weingarten will meet again in person with CNSCI colleagues when she returns to LRMC for the sixth time in June with her husband, Michael S. Weingarten '95 MBA, MD, MBA, FACS. He volunteers as a visiting vascular surgeon with LRMC’s Combat Casualty Program.

In addition to Dr. Carol Toussie Weingarten, those who have “joined forces” with the CNSCI include the following with a Villanova Nursing connection: Linda Copel PhD, RN, ANEF, professor; Elizabeth Dowdell PhD, RN, FAAN, professor; Ann Barrow McKenzie '86 BSN, '91 MSN, RN, coordinator of College Relations; Helene Moriarty '77 BSN, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, professor and the Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz Jr. Endowed Chair in Nursing Research; Rose Woytowich O’Driscoll '64 BSN, MSN, RN, assistant dean for Administration; Barbara B. Ott, PhD, RN, associate professor and chair of the College’s “Joining Forces” committee; Sharon Roth-DeFulvio, coordinator of Information Technology; Chuck Rowland '07 BSN, '10 MSN, CRNP, a cardiothoracic surgery specialist; and Lydia Williams '13 MSN, a wound care specialist. The other Villanovans are Michael A. Posner, PhD, associate professor of statistics, and Barbara Quintiliano, research design librarian. •

Students Offer Care in Rural Panama

This year, the College of Nursing has added two pins to its world map. Last fall, Panama became a global health experience option for Nursing undergraduates, and this spring, a health promotional clinical site in Ghana is being added.

During Fall Break 2013, four Nursing juniors, plus another who served as a translator, journeyed to the southernmost Central American country for a week. The students opted for this international enrichment experience in Panama as they began their first Medical-Surgical Nursing course. Accompanying them were M. Frances Keen, DNSc, RN, associate professor and interim director of the Center for Global and Public Health, and Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN, assistant professor. The course provided students with the opportunity to examine and participate in health-care delivery to an impoverished rural community in eastern Panama.

The group made connections in the area with the assistance of the Rev. Wally "Padre Pablo" Kasuboski, a Capuchin missionary and attorney who directs numerous infrastructural social development projects for the poor and disenfranchised in the Panamanian rain forest. Father Kasuboski, who is based in Wacuco, three hours outside Panama City, provided housing for the nurses as well as for a group of Villanova Engineering students studying water issues.

The Nursing students assisted at the government-sponsored health center in Torti, where they learned about its setting, personnel and services. They provided care over several days to patients, many of whom travel a considerable distance. The clinic offers care for acute and chronic disorders, emergencies, perinatal exams, labor and delivery, and dental problems, as well as providing medications.

Students helped take vital signs, weigh and assess patients, give vaccines, administer breathing treatments, clean wounds and apply dressings. Through an interpreter, they learned about the clinic's most common health problems as well as some of the area's cultural practices and beliefs.

At Father Kasuboski's mission, the students organized hundreds of dollars of donated medical supplies that had been sitting there because there was no plan for distributing these unrequested items. Guided by faculty, they learned how to use these supplies and equipment, some of which they had never seen. They came to appreciate the difficulties when people donate without knowing specific needs and where there are no facilities for storage and distribution.

The Villanova Nursing team hopes to offer health education in the community's schools and also benefit from accompanying local health promoters on their home visits. ●



Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN, assistant professor, and junior Michaela Scalfani prepare to give an injection at the health center in Torti, Panama.



(From left) Juniors Makenzie Miller, Rachelle Dambman, Taylor Noll, Meghan Taylor and Scalfani, along with Dr. Mariani and M. Frances Keen, DNSc, RN, associate professor, are joined by a canine friend.

Interprofessional Course Addresses Health Care and Law

In 2012, the College of Nursing and Villanova School of Law (VLS) launched a joint venture to offer a unique course, Health Care and the Law, to their graduate-level students. After months of development, the first class was offered last spring. Marguerite K. Schlag '68 BSN, EdD, RN, assistant dean of the Graduate Nursing Program, and Michael Campbell '74 LAS, visiting assistant professor of Law and director of the VLS Interdisciplinary Health Law Clinic, led the inaugural students into the interprofessional workings of health care and the law. As a faculty team, this experienced health-care administrator and advocate brought invaluable lessons to the course.

The four Nursing and six VLS students spent the semester researching and discussing various aspects of the law as well as ethical considerations that have an impact on Americans and their overall health status. Utilizing multimedia, the faculty team guided them through readings, case studies, and oral and written presentations to illustrate the common ground between the two

professions and the challenges professionals face in administrative and clinical practice milieus. Concurrently, the VLS students gained experience in the health law clinic and the Nursing students witnessed and participated in client interviews. The clinic encourages the work of collaborative teams to help low-income clients understand and assert their rights to access health care.

To bring to life health care, policy interpretation and the law, the students interacted with professional actors who portrayed cognitively impaired men and women. The students had to explain to them procedures and possible outcomes. In addition to discussing specific events, the students had to discern if these "patients" truly understood and were capable of making decisions on their own behalf.

The course is being offered again this spring by Professor Campbell and Kelly Nestor '96 BSN, '08 MSN, ANP-BC, an adult nurse practitioner and clinical instructor in the College's Adult Gerontology and Family Nurse Practitioner programs. •



Marguerite K. Schlag '68 BSN, EdD, RN (back row, left) and Michael Campbell '74 LAS (back row, right) last spring co-taught the new Health Care and the Law graduate-level class. Among the students were Nanci Barone '13 MSN (Nursing Education, next to Dr. Schlag) and Elizabeth Mooney (Family Nurse Practitioner, next to Barone). Nursing students not pictured are Elizabeth Smith (Pediatric Nurse Practitioner) and Rachel Newton '13 MSN (Family Nurse Practitioner).

Colleague Celebrated for 25 Years of Service



As Undergraduate Program assistant, Marie Paolucci has interacted with thousands of future nurses.

As Marie Paolucci started her new job in the College of Nursing on November 14, 1988, little did she know she would become the longest-serving staff member. Last fall, she reached the 25-year mark, and on that anniversary, Dean Fitzpatrick, faculty and staff celebrated Paolucci's longstanding service. The dean noted the fact that Paolucci is "indispensable" and affirmed "how much we love and appreciate" her.

Paolucci first worked at the College as receptionist for six years then moved into her current role as the Undergraduate Program assistant. At the undergraduate desk, she has interacted with and helped thousands of future nurses. "I have enjoyed every bit of it," she notes.

Three of Paolucci's four children are Villanovans: Michael '98 LAS; Marie '00 LAS, '03 BSN; and Monica '06 MS (Educ.). •

NLN Academy Inducts Dr. Copel



Expertise as a researcher, educator, mentor and practicing clinician led to a prestigious national honor for Professor Linda Carman Copel, PhD, RN, PMHCNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, ANEF.

An exemplar for both undergraduate and graduate students, Professor Linda Carman Copel, PhD, RN, PMHCNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, ANEF was inducted into the National League for Nursing (NLN) Academy of Nursing Education last September. She was one of 28 distinguished nurse educators selected for the prestigious honor as the seventh class of fellows. The induction took place in Washington, D.C., at the 2013 NLN Education Summit.

Well-known for her research in domestic violence, Dr. Copel more recently has been studying issues affecting veterans and their families. “Discovering the person’s situation and finding strategies to identify comprehensively his or her needs and meet them is the goal of excellent nursing care,” she explains. “Research is an antecedent to making a difference in the care that is delivered, especially to vulnerable populations like women encountering intimate partner violence, families in transition during divorce and people struggling to cope with the loss of a loved one.” She adds, “When there are not clear and action-oriented answers, I have learned that research is one way to start building

the information necessary for nursing care and empowering people to manage their needs and live healthier lives.”

Dr. Copel is successful as well in her interdisciplinary efforts. A proponent of interprofessional education, she is described by colleagues as an “architect of community partnerships.” In a letter of support, M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, wrote: “Dr. Copel is a consummate practicing clinician, an excellent teacher, mentor and scholar with an unbroken record of research and publication.”

Associate Professor Carol Toussie Weingarten, PhD, RN, ANEF notes of Dr. Copel: “She lives the educator role... the impact of her work as an expert educator and specialist in psychiatric-mental health nursing extends to the local, state and national levels.”

Dr. Copel’s contributions to nursing and education are numerous. An educator through her own practice in the community, she mentors bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral students—including international students. As an education consultant, she assumes professional leadership roles in national organizations. •

“When there are not clear and action-oriented answers, I have learned that research is one way to start building the information necessary for nursing care and empowering people to manage their needs and live healthier lives.”

— Linda Carman Copel, PhD, RN, PMHCNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, ANEF



TRANSITIONS

Margaret G. “Peggy” Lyons ’87 BSN, DNP, CRNI in June 2013 became the nurse faculty coordinator of the Online RN-to-BSN Program option. She was previously program coordinator for Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care.



Jodie Szlachta ’07 MSN, ’11 PhD, RN, CRNA has been promoted from the associate program director to director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program. Assuming the associate program director position is **Matthew McCoy ’05 MSN, ’13 DNP, CRNA**, who had been in anesthesia practice at A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del.



FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Patricia K. Bradley PhD, RN, FAAN, associate professor, published the chapter “African American Women and Breast Cancer Issues” in *African American Women’s Life Issues Today: Vital Health and Social Matters*, edited by C.F. Collins, 36-45.

Theresa Capriotti ’95 MSN, DO, RN, CRNP co-authored with two undergraduates the following articles:

- with senior **Aurora Vanderwark** “What is Bisphenol A: How Harmful Is It?” in *The Clinical Advisor*, 16 (3), 3-47 and
- with junior **Brian Hartmann** “What You Should Know About Medical Marijuana” in *The Clinical Advisor*, 16 (12), 92-96.

Linda Carman Copel, PhD, RN, PMHCNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, ANEF, professor, published three book chapters in 2013:

- “Antidepressant Medications” in *Nurses’ Drug Handbook*;
- “Cognitive Disorder Test Questions” in *NCLEX-RN Review Made Incredibly Easy*, edited by S. Lisko; and
- “Men’s Reproductive Health” in *Brunner*

and Suddarth's *Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing* (13th ed.), edited by J.L. Hinkle and K.H. Cheever.

Lynore DeSilets, EdD, RN-BC, assistant dean and director of the Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care Program, published four editorial columns in *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*: "Reflections on the Starfish and the Spider," 44 (12), 529-530; "More on Gap Analysis," 44 (11), 433-434; "The Accreditation Process: A Virtual Visit Experience," 44 (8), 336-337; and "No Longer a Passing Fad," 44 (4), 149-150.

Tamara M. Kear '09 PhD, RN, CNS, CNN, assistant professor, published:

- an article, "Transformative Learning During Nursing Education: A Model of Interconnectivity," in *Nurse Education Today*, 33, 1083-1087;
- an article with E. Evans, D. Hain, C. Schrauf and L. Dork, "Patients' Perceptions of Dialysis Catheter Care Practices at Home Before and After Eliminating a Protective Dressing and Implementing a Showering Protocol," in *Journal of Infection Prevention*, 14 (6), 208-212; and
- two book chapters, "Management of Patients with Renal Disorders" and "Management of Patients with Urinary Disorders," in *Brunner and Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing* (13th ed.), edited by J.L. Hinkle and K.H. Cheever.

Three assistant professors—**Elizabeth K. Keech '66 BSN, PhD, RN**; **Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN**; and **Ruth McDermott-Levy '96 MSN, '08 PhD, RN**—took part in a study published as "Challenges and Successes in Making Health Care More Accessible to Rural Communities in Waslala, Nicaragua Using Low-Cost Telecommunications," in the *Proceedings of IEEE 2013 Global Humanitarian Technology Conference*. The conference took place in Silicon Valley, Calif., in October 2013. Two other contributors are also Villanovans: Dr. Pritpal Singh, professor and chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Dr. James Klingler from the School of Business. The fifth colleague is Maria Virginia Moncada from the Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería in Managua, Nicaragua.

Dr. Keech co-authored the chapter "Health Care of the Older Adult" in *Brunner & Suddarth's Textbook of Medical Surgical Nursing* (13th ed.), edited by J.L. Hinkle and K.H. Cheever.

Michelle M. Kelly '94 BSN, '12 PhD, CRNP, RN, clinical assistant professor, published "Assessment of Life After Prematurity in 9- to 10-Year-Old Children" in *MCN: The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing*, 39 (1), 26-32.

Margaret "Peggy" G. Lyons '87 BSN, DNP, RN, CRNI, nurse faculty coordinator of the Online RN-to-BSN Program, was the lead author on a paper with L. Carey, "Parenteral Inotropic Therapy in the Home: An Update for Home Care and Hospice," in *Home Healthcare Nurse*, 13 (4), 190-204.

Ruth A. McDermott-Levy '96 MSN, '08 PhD, RN, assistant professor, published three articles:

- "Female Arab-Muslim Nursing Students' Reentry Transitions" in the *International Journal of Nursing Education Scholarship*, 10 (1), 1-8;
- with N. Kaktins and B. Sattler, "Fracking, the Environment and Our Health: An Examination of Energy Practices and Policies That Threaten Patients," in the *American Journal of Nursing*, 113 (6), 52-57; and
- with K. Weatherbie, "Health Promoters' Perceptions of Their Communities' Health Needs, Knowledge, and Resource Needs in Rural Nicaragua," in *Public Health Nursing*, 30 (2), 94-105.

Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC published two articles:

- "Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Education in Young Adult Women: Using Risk Reduction Models to Improve Vaccine Initiation and Completion Rates," in *Journal of Gynecological Oncology Nursing*, 23 (1), 12-16; and
- with J.R. Bloch and A. Bratic, "Pharmaceutical Drug Shortage and the Burden of Access to Care: A Critical Issue Affecting Patients with Cancer," in *Journal of Clinical Oncology Nursing*, 17 (5), 490-5.

Melissa O'Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, COS-C, assistant professor, published with **Mary D. Naylor '71 BSN**, K.B. Hirschman, R. Barg and M.V. Pauly, "Engaging Older Adults in Their Transitional Care: What More Needs to Be Done?," in *Journal of Comparative Effectiveness Research*, 2 (5), 1-12.

Sara J. Reeder, PhD, RN, associate professor, published two articles:

- "The Effect of Telemonitoring at Home on Quality of Life and Self-Care Behaviors of Patients with Heart Failure" in *Home Healthcare Nurse*, 31 (7), 368-377; and
- "What Nurse Practitioners Should Know About Gene Therapy" in *The Nurse Practitioner*, 38 (11), 16-22.



Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor and director of the PhD Program in Nursing, co-authored a paper with J.M. Nick and D.W. Leners, "From Committee to Commission: The History of the NLN's Academic Certified Nurse Educator Program," in *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 34 (8), 14-18.

Debra Shearer, EdD, MSN, FNP-BC, assistant professor and director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, published a book review, "An Essential Clinical Resource for the Diagnosis and Management of Pediatric Skin Conditions," in *Pediatric Nursing*, 39 (4), 206-171.

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, FAAN, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research, co-authored with PhD student **Christina Lam, MSN, RN** "Patterns of Symptom Recognition, Interpretation, and Response in Heart Failure Patients: An Integrative Review" in *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, 28 (4), 348-359.

Carol Toussie Weingarten, PhD, RN, ANEF, associate professor, authored "Generational Diversity in ED and Education Settings: A Daughter-Mother Perspective" in *Journal of Emergency Nursing*, 39 (4), 369-371.

Joyce S. Willens '83 BSN, PhD, RN, BC, assistant professor, published two articles:

- "What Is New in Pain Management Nursing?" in *Pain Management Nursing*, 15 (1), 1 and
- "Animal Assisted Therapies" in *Pain Management Nursing*, 14 (4), 183.

FACULTY LEADERSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Faculty work presented at the National League for Nursing's Nursing Education Summit, held in Washington, D.C., in September 2013 included:

- a podium presentation by **Jennifer Gunberg Ross '00 BSN, '05 MSN, '11 PhD, RN, CNE**, adjunct clinical instructor; **Elizabeth A. Bruderle '90 MSN, PhD, RN**, clinical assistant professor; **Joyce S. Willens '83 BSN, PhD, RN, BC**, assistant professor; and **Colleen H. Meakin '84 MSN, RN**, director of the Learning Resource Center: "Practice Makes Perfect: Evidence-Based Strategies Enhance Skill Retention" and
- a paper by assistant professors **Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP** and **Elizabeth Petit de Mange, PhD, MSN, NP-C, RN**: "Building Multi-Agency Partnerships in Nursing: Lessons Learned."

Faculty have given presentations at Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society

conferences held around the world. Among them are:

- **Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN**, assistant professor, presented a paper, "Development and Psychometric Testing of the Mariani Nursing Career Satisfaction Scale," in July 2013 at the 24th International Nursing Research Congress, held in Prague, Czech Republic.
- Also at the Prague congress, **Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, PhD, RN, FAAN**, professor and director of the PhD Program in Nursing, presented "Falls, Bone and Joint Injuries, and Vision Status Among Adult Women Respondents to the 2008 National Health Interview Survey" and **Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, FAAN**, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research, presented "Health Screening by Disability, Gender and Race."
- At the 42nd Biennial Convention, held in Indianapolis in November 2013, Dr. Sharts-Hopko presented a paper, "Perceptions Regarding the Effect of Doctoral Teaching on Faculty Ability to Maintain a Program of Scholarship," with Dr. Smeltzer; **Mary Ann Cantrell '89 MSN, PhD, RN, CS**, professor; M.A. Heverly; N.J. Wise; and PhD student **Amanda Jenkinson**.
- Also at the Indianapolis convention, **Elizabeth B. Dowdell, PhD, RN, FAAN**, professor, presented "High School Students and Online Relationships: Behavioral Differences of Adolescents Who Meet Online Strangers Offline Compared to Adolescents Who Do Not Meet Offline."

Four faculty members presented papers at the 25th Annual Scientific Session of the Eastern Nursing Research Society, held in Boston in April 2013:

- **Linda C. Copel, PhD, RN, PMHCNS, BC, CNE, NCC, FAPA, ANEF**, professor, "Verbal Abuse Experienced by Military Wives: A Proposed Model for Developing an Intervention Program";
- **Michelle M. Kelly '94 BSN, '12 PhD, CRNP, RN**, clinical assistant professor, "Working Memory Assessment in Children Born Prematurely";
- **Bing-Bing Qi '94 MSN, PhD, RN**, assistant professor, "Socioeconomic Status, Acculturation, Risk Factors and Osteoporosis in Chinese Immigrants"; and
- **Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, FAAN**, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research, "Preventive Health

Screening Disparities by Disability, Gender and Race."

M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, was the guest speaker in October 2013 at the banquet of the Worldwide Alumni Association of the American University of Beirut's Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Alumni Chapter. She addressed "The Role of Nursing in Primary Care." In November, Dean Fitzpatrick was re-elected to the Board of Trustees for the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools.

Tamara M. Kear '09 PhD, RN, CNN, assistant professor, presented two posters:

- "Patients' Perceptions of Hemodialysis Catheter Care Practices at Home" at the 4th Annual Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice Symposium, Berks Regional Nursing Research Alliance, held in October 2013 in Reading, Pa., and
- "Hypertension in Haitian Immigrants Living in the Dominican Republic: An Investigation of Rural Sugar Cane Communities" at the American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) 44th National Symposium, held in April 2013 in Las Vegas.

Dr. Kear also presented two papers:

- "Patients' Perceptions of Hemodialysis Catheter Care Practices at Home" at the American Nephrology Nurses Association Keystone Chapter, 25th Annual Day of Learning, held in April 2013 in King of Prussia, Pa.; and
- with E. Evans, "Perceptions of Patients in a Multi-Site Study of Hemodialysis Catheter Outcomes with No Dressing and a Prescribed Showering Procedure," also at ANNA's 44th National Symposium in Las Vegas.

ANNA awarded Dr. Kear a Health Policy Travel Grant and the Research Abstract Award.

Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN, assistant professor; **Mary Ann Cantrell '89 MSN, PhD, RN, CS**, professor; and **Colleen M. Meakim '84 MSN, RN**, director of the Learning Resource Center, presented a paper, "What's Wrong with This Patient: An Evidence-based Quality and Safety Simulation," at the 12th Annual International Nursing Simulation & Learning Resource Centers Conference, sponsored by the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning. It took place in Las Vegas in June 2013. Dr. Mariani and Meakim also presented a pre-conference paper, "The Anatomy of a Simulation."

Ruth A. McDermott-Levy '96 MSN, '08 PhD, RN, assistant professor, presented two papers, "The Nurse as an Advocate: Fulfilling Our Professional Responsibility," and "What's It All About? Sustainability for Nurses," at the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association's "Eco-centric Nursing Practice: Sustaining a Healthy Future in Local to Global Environments" conference, held in October 2013 in Malvern, Pa.

Dr. McDermott-Levy, with **Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC**, assistant professor, presented a paper, "An Innovative Strategy to Measure Arab-Muslim Immigrant Women's Knowledge with Consideration of Cultural Learning Style," at the American Public Health Association's annual conference, held in Boston in November 2013.

Amy E. McKeever '08 PhD, RN, CRNP, WHNP-BC, assistant professor, presented a poster, "Marrying Centering Pregnancy with Community Health Workers and Academic Partners for the Prevention of Preterm Birth," and a podium presentation, "Adenocarcinoma Cervical Cancer Still Occurs in Young Women," at the AWHONN National Convention in June 2013 in Nashville, Tenn.

Colleen H. Meakim '84 MSN, RN, director of the Learning Resource Center, received the Service Award of The International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation & Learning at its 12th annual conference, held in Las Vegas in June 2013.

Helene Moriarty '77 BSN, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, professor and the Diane L. and Robert F. Moritz Jr. Endowed Chair in Nursing Research, co-presented:

- three papers at the 11th International Family Nursing Conference, held in Minneapolis in June 2013: "Using Mixed Methods to Enhance Understanding of the Impact of Family Interventions and Processes During Interventions," with J. Horowitz, L. Winter, G. True and R. Demarco; "Group Coding of Qualitative Data in Research of Families: Challenges and Advantages," with J. Horowitz, J.P. Robinson, L. Bunting-Perry and J. Vessey; and "Examining Contextual Challenges and Strategies in Measurement in Family Research," with J. Horowitz, M. Hayes, N. Dubois and D. Zirkle;
- a paper at the Symposium on Mechanisms and Manifestations of Traumatic Brain Injury, held in Philadelphia in September 2013: "Rating Competency in Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury: Discordance Between Veterans and Their Family Members," with L. Winter, K. Robinson, G. True, C. Piersol, T. Vause-Earland, D. Lacavone, B. Newhart, D. Fishman, L. Holbert, N. Hodgson and L. Gitlin;

- two papers at the Edmond J. Safra Foundation Visiting Nurse Faculty Alumni Program, held in Philadelphia in September 2013: "Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms and Parkinson's Disease Research: Getting in, Digging in, and Digging out, Part I: Engaging in Clinical Research," with C. Bradway and J.P. Robinson, and "Part II: The Lower Urinary Tract Symptom Experience in Men with Parkinson's Disease: A Mixed Methods Examination," with J.P. Robinson, L. Bunting-Perry and C.W. Bradway; and
- a poster at the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science's 2013 Special Topics Conference on Innovative Approaches to Symptom Science: Measurement and Analysis, held in Washington, D.C., in October 2013: "Using Mixed Methods to Understand Symptom Distress in Patients with Parkinson's Disease and Urinary Symptoms," with J.P. Robinson, L. Bunting-Perry, C.W. Bradway and T. Avi-Itzhak.

Dr. Moriarty was re-appointed to the editorial board of *Journal of Family Nursing* and continues as co-chair of the Family/Community Based Participatory Research Interest Group of the Eastern Nursing Research Society. In November 2013, she began as chair of the Research Committee of the International Family Nursing Association. In January, she was awarded funding as a co-investigator for a one-year VA grant with principal investigator N. Safdar. Their study, "Barriers and Facilitators to C. Difficile Bundle Implementation in VA," will use a systems engineering initiative for patient safety framework.

Kelly Ann P. Nestor '96 BSN, '08 MSN, ANP-BC, clinical instructor, presented two posters:



- "A 'Smart' Prescribing Lesson" at the 11th Annual Faculty Conference on Teaching Excellence, held at Temple University in January, and
- "Political Participation of Registered Nurses: Development of the Concepts" with B. Rodgers at the Western Institute of Nursing Conference in Anaheim, Calif., in April 2013.

Melissa O'Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, COS-C, assistant professor and the first Eugenie and Joseph Doyle Research Fellow at the Center for Home Care Policy & Research of the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, presented:

- an invited presentation, "Research on Home Health Use & Impact on Readmis-

sions," at the Pennsylvania Home Care Association Annual Conference, held in May 2013 in State College, Pa.;

- an invited presentation, "We're All in Our Own Little Island: A Qualitative Exploration of Patient Information Exchange During Admission to Home Health Agency," with M. Topaz, D. Molkina, G. Koru, R. Masterson-Creber, O. Jarrin, K. Radhakrishnan and **Kathryn H. Bowles '90 MSN**, at the American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium, held in Washington, D.C., in October 2013;
- an invited presentation, "Impact of Length of Stay and Number of Skilled Nursing Visits on Hospitalization Following Home Health Discharge," with A. Hanlon, **Mary D. Naylor '71 BSN** and **Kathryn H. Bowles '90 MSN** at the International Home Care Nurses Organization Inaugural Conference: "The Future of Health Care Is at Home," held in Cleveland in July 2013; and
- two poster presentations at The Gerontological Society of America's 66th Annual Scientific Meeting, held in New Orleans in November 2013. Her invited poster was: "Impact of Frontloading of Skilled Nursing Visits on the Incidence of 30-day Hospital Readmission," with A. Hanlon and **Kathryn H. Bowles '90 MSN**. Dr. O'Connor and Bowles also presented "Who Shall We Visit First? Great Variation in How Home Health Prioritizes Patients' First Home Visit," with M. Topaz, D. Molkina, O. Jarrin and K. Radhakrishnan.

Barbara B. Ott, PhD, RN associate professor, was the keynote speaker at the Main Line Health System's 10th Annual Pain Conference, held in March 2013 in Wynnewood, Pa. She spoke on "The Ethics of Pain Management at the End of Life."

Bing Bing Qi '94 MSN, PhD, RN, assistant professor, presented a poster, "Psychometric Testing of the Chinese Versions of Self-Efficacy and Outcome Expectations for Osteoporosis Medication Adherence Scales" at The Gerontological Society of America's 66th Annual Scientific Meeting, held in New Orleans in November 2013.

Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor and director of the PhD Program in Nursing, was re-elected treasurer of Sigma Theta Tau International at its 42nd Biennial Convention, held in Indianapolis in November 2013.

Debra Shearer, EdD, MSN, FNP-BC, assistant professor and director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, gave a podium presentation, "Alert: New Federal Requirements for NPs Performing CMV Physicals" at

the 28th National Conference of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, held in Las Vegas in June 2013.

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, FAAN, professor and director of the Center for Nursing Research, with **Bette A. Mariani '82 BSN, PhD, RN**, assistant professor; **Jennifer Gunberg Ross '00 BSN, '05 MSN, '11 PhD, RN, CNE**, adjunct clinical instructor; **Elizabeth A. Bruderle '90 MSN, PhD, RN**, clinical assistant professor; **Elizabeth Petit de Mange, PhD, MSN, NP-C, RN**, assistant professor; and **Colleen H. Meakim '84 MSN, RN**, director of the Learning Resource Center, presented two papers: "Use of Standardized Patients with Disabilities in Undergraduate Nursing Programs" and "Standardized Patients with Disabilities: Bringing a New Perspective to Nursing Education," at the Annual Conference of the Association of Standardized Patient Educators, held in Atlanta in June 2013.

Dr. Smeltzer presented a poster, "Preventive Health Screening Disparities by Disability, Gender and Race," at the Conference on Health Disparities Research at the Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, and Disability, held in Washington, D.C., in April 2013.

Carol Toussie Weingarten, PhD, RN, ANEF, associate professor, presented "The School Chapter Advisor: Inspiring and Mentoring Future Leaders" at the Summer Leadership Conference of the National Student Nurses' Association, held in July 2013 at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. In Germany, she presented "Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Through the Eyes of a Civilian Volunteer Who is a Nurse," "How to Teach Almost Anything to Almost Anyone (Part 1 & 2)," and "An Introduction to Villanova University: Scholarship and Leadership," to the Center for Nursing Science and Clinical Inquiry at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (see page 21).

Dr. Weingarten was named the 2013 "Advisor of the Year" by the Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania, as well as by the Office of Student Development at Villanova University. •

Experts in Geriatric Nursing and Nutrition/Diabetes Education Join the College

A recognized expert in geriatric nursing and home health care, Melissa O'Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, COS-C, joined the faculty last fall as assistant professor. She was most recently a post-doctoral research fellow at the NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, where her scholarly work centered on individualized care for at-risk older adults. She was named as the first Eugenie and Joseph Doyle Research Fellow by the Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY) Center for Home Care Policy & Research, making the College a new academic partner of VNSNY.

Dr. O'Connor's research aids health-care providers in clinical decision-making and care management and, in parallel, helps the elderly age in place in the community, thus avoiding hospitalization. She frequently uses large data sets in her studies. Her work also addresses building geriatric nursing capacity in academic settings and highlights the unique contributions of skilled nursing care in support of the goal of community-based care for older adults. Her studies have been published in such journals as *Home Health Care Management and Practice*, *Home Health Care Services Quarterly*, *Journal of Comparative Effectiveness* and *Nursing Outlook*. Dr. O'Connor has shared her study results at conferences nationally and internationally.

For the Hartford Gerontological Nursing Leaders, she co-chairs the Policy and Leadership Committee and the Inter-Professional Townhall. She serves on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Older People Nursing*.

Having practiced nursing in the acute care setting as well as in the community, Dr. O'Connor brings that dual perspective—and experience both on staff and in management—to her research and teaching. She has also held positions in telehealth, utilization review and case management

and established her own care management business. She has taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson University and Immaculata University.

Dr. O'Connor earned her BSN from Thomas Jefferson, her MBA from Eastern University and her PhD from Penn, where she also earned a certificate in teaching. She holds a certificate in applied health informatics from the Johns Hopkins University.

Bringing a strong background in nutrition and diabetes education, Erin Winterhalter, MPH, RD, LDN, CDE was appointed director of the MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education (COPE). She began her new role in October 2013.

Winterhalter most recently was a certified diabetes educator and registered dietitian for the Diabetes Center for Children at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). There she served on its interdisciplinary team and as project manager for the center's E-learning series for adolescents. Winterhalter has experience planning major events, including CHOP's yearly "Living Well with Diabetes: Now and in the Future" conference for patients and their families and was the driving force behind the center's social media presence.

A published author on health literacy, she focused her master's thesis on the health literacy environment in an outpatient pediatric diabetes clinic. A nationally recognized speaker, she has presented at many local and national professional conferences, including the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Diabetes Care and Education Symposium as well as the Pediatric Endocrine Nursing Society Conference.

Winterhalter earned her BS in dietetics from the University of Delaware and her master of public health degree from Thomas Jefferson University. •



The research of Assistant Professor Melissa O'Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, COS-C assists health-care providers and the elderly.



Health literacy is one of the strengths of Erin Winterhalter, MPH, RD, LDN, CDE, the new director of the MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education (COPE).

A Farewell to Retiring Faculty Members

The College of Nursing announces the following faculty retirements. We wish our colleagues well in their new adventures!

M. Frances Keen, DNSc, RN-BC, a tenured associate professor and interim director of the Center for Global and Public Health, retires after 14 years of service. Dr. Keen formerly was



assistant dean and director of the College's Undergraduate Program, a position she held for 10 years (until 2011). Recently she taught adult health and leadership and management in the classroom and clinical settings and also worked on special projects for Dean Fitzpatrick. She has a special interest in global health and led students on international experiences. Dr. Keen came to the College after serving as a faculty member at the University of Miami School of Nursing.

Karen McKenna '70 BSN, MSN, RN, clinical assistant professor, retires after 26 years of service to the College. She has coordinated the College's Connelly-Delouvier International Scholars Program



and has led students on global health experiences to Nicaragua, Honduras, South Africa and Peru. McKenna is an expert in diabetes and community and home health care. She has taught a wide variety of courses and has a special commitment to underserved populations. A model for students, she volunteers at Philadelphia clinics caring for vulnerable patients.

Patricia Mynaugh, PhD, RN, a tenured associate professor and an expert in maternal-child health nursing, has mentored numerous students in obstetrical nursing over her 31 years of service to Villanova. Dr. Mynaugh developed the student multicultural health-care experiences in maternal child-health at birthing centers on the Texas-Mexico border. Her publications include those related to prenatal care and breastfeeding.



Barbara B. Ott, PhD, RN, a tenured associate professor who brought a critical care nursing background to the College, retires after 20 years of teaching at the College. She teaches ethics to graduate students and has served on ethics committees of local health systems. Dr. Ott has been a longstanding volunteer with Operation Smile. She served on Villanova University's Faculty Congress Committee on Faculty.



Gail Robinson-Smith, PhD, RN, a tenured associate professor, retires after 16 years of faculty service. An expert in psychiatric-mental health nursing, she is a clinical nurse specialist with a specialty in family systems therapy and taught in the Undergraduate Program.



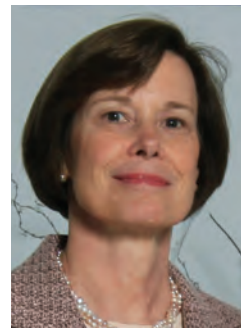
She helped incorporate a new simulation program to assist students in understanding patients who hear distressing voices. Her research and publications focus on self-care, self-efficacy, quality of life and depression after stroke.

Bette Wildgust '97 MSN, MS, CRNA, who has served the College for 15 years, retired in December 2013 as a clinical associate professor and director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program, which



is offered by the College in conjunction with Crozer-Chester Medical Center. She has been responsible for encouraging the partnership between the two institutions. Wildgust has had a distinguished career across her more than 37 years of teaching nurse anesthesia students and administering anesthesia programs. She continues to serve on Pennsylvania's State Board of Nursing.

Debbie Wimmer '83 MSN, CRNP, assistant clinical professor, retires after 28 years at the College. She is a pediatric nurse practitioner and has long served as a volunteer with Operation Smile.



Her contributions to the undergraduate and graduate programs, her expertise in pediatric nursing, and her commitment to the College's global initiatives and concern for the underserved have been important to the development of programs and students. Wimmer has promoted health in many locales, including Peru, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and with the Shoshone Nation in Nevada. •

SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST JOINS STUDENTS AND DONORS

Generous donors make possible the education of future Villanova nurses. Scholarship recipients and their families had a chance to meet donors and share their stories at the annual Scholarship Breakfast, held on September 22, 2013, in Driscoll Hall during Villanova University's Parents' Weekend.

The Robert and Frances Capone Scholarship
Kristen C. DiDomenico, junior, Paoli, Pa.

Pamela M. and John W. Cembrook Family Endowed Scholarship
Vallena Lipske, sophomore, Sebastopol, Calif.

Beatrice A. Chase '54 Scholarship for Nursing
Victoria R. Steiner, senior, Syracuse, N.Y.

David and Christine Clark '94 Endowed Scholarship
Kelly Lam, sophomore, Forest Hills, N.Y.

Richard W. and Martha B. Coyle Nursing Scholarship
Heather Yin, senior, Denver, Colo.

The Jill Laura Creedon Scholarship for Nursing
Michelle Alemi, senior, Haddonfield, N.J.

The Frances Farrell D'Ambrisi Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Karli Miller, junior, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
Makenzie Miller, junior, Riverton, N.J.

The Eastwood Family Nursing Scholarship
Kathryn E. Dolan, junior, Havertown, Pa.

The Linda D. and James W. Eastwood '68 Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Sophy Babu, senior, Philadelphia
Kathryn Scully, sophomore, Springfield, Pa.

PPJOC Endowed University Scholarship
Alessandra Procopio, senior, Philadelphia

The Memorial Endowment of Margaret S. and Jeremiah J. Enright
Meghan E. Linnehan, senior, Nashua, N.H.
Melissa Pfeifer, junior, Plymouth Meeting, Pa.

The Daniel M. and Christine A. Finnegan Endowed Nursing Scholarship in Memory of Eileen S. Lupton '03
Gregory Thesing, sophomore, Millville, N.J.

The Eileen Greyson Hoffman '61 Scholarship for Nursing
Emma Walker, senior, Philadelphia

Mary Alice Holland Memorial Scholarship
Erica Whitney, senior, Lansdale, Pa.

The Kreider Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Susanna Wendelboe, senior, Wilton, Conn.

The Eileen S. Lupton '03 Endowed Memorial Scholarship
Julie P. Kurkowski, senior, Blue Bell, Pa.

Gerald M. and Carolyn A. Miller Family Scholarship
Heather Yin, senior, Denver, Colo.

The Mother Teresa Endowed Nursing Scholarship Established by Peter and Colleen Schleider in Memory of Richard and Ellen Wright
Esther Lee, junior, Fullerton, Calif.
Hyein "Katie" Lee, sophomore, Oakland Gardens, N.Y.

Theresa Wilson & Michael J. Mruz Scholarship in Nursing
Taylor A. Noll, junior, Haddonfield, N.J.

The Mary V. O'Donnell Endowed University Scholarship
Elizabeth M. Long, junior, Kensington, Conn.

The Col. Julia B. Paparella and Dr. Benedict A. Paparella Endowed Scholarship for Nursing
Karley R. McBreen, senior, Prospect Park, Pa.

Daniel D. Peschio, Jr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Vera L. Shaw, senior, Brooksville, Fla.

The Pompizzi Family Endowed Scholarship for Nursing
Jolyssa M. Lewis, junior, Philadelphia

The Alexis Rosenberg Foundation Endowed Scholarship
Rachelle Dambman, senior, Aston, Pa.
Jennifer Warren, junior, Stoneham, Mass.

The Margaret Mary Starzynski Memorial Fund Scholarship
Meghan N. Long, sophomore, Kensington, Conn.
Ashley Phillips, junior, Maplewood, N.J.

For more information regarding donation to scholarship funds or other opportunities within the College of Nursing, contact Edward Stephen '05 LAS, director of Major Giving, at (484) 343-2514 or by e-mail at edward.stephen@villanova.edu.



The College's fall 2013 scholarship recipients include (front row, from left) Esther Lee, Makenzie Miller, Hyein "Katie" Lee, Vallena Lipske, Karly R. McBreen, Susanna Wendelboe (back row, from left) Jennifer Warren, Meghan N. Long, Jolyssa M. Lewis, Karli Miller, Meghan E. Linnehan, Elizabeth M. Long, Rachelle Dambman, Vera L. Shaw, Kristen C. DiDomenico, Gregory Thesing, Victoria R. Steiner, Alessandra Procopio, Erica Whitney, Michele Alemi, Emma Walker, Kelly Lam, Sophy Babu, Heather Yin, Julie P. Kurkowski, Kathryn Scully, Kathryn E. Dolan, Melissa Pfeifer and Ashley Phillips. Not pictured: Taylor Noll.

DAVIS AND REILLY FUNDS WILL SUPPORT STUDENT AND FACULTY RESEARCH

For the first time, the College of Nursing has received gifts that will directly support its research development of both students and faculty.

Hugh M. Davis '83 MS, '85 PhD; his wife, Pamela S. Davis; and their daughter, Olivia M. Davis '13 BSN, have pledged to establish an endowed fund for undergraduate participation in research as well as a newly created fund for the same purpose, both of which will bear their names. The purpose of the funds is to support undergraduate participation in faculty guided research.

Dr. Davis earned both his master's and

PhD at Villanova in chemistry. Olivia graduated last year from the College of Nursing.

Jeannette S. and Brian M. Reilly, parents of Britten Reilly, a junior in the College of Nursing, will establish The Jeannette and Brian Reilly Fund to Support Junior Faculty Research. The funds will be used at the discretion of the dean to provide financial support to the research efforts of junior faculty members in the College of Nursing. Jeannette Reilly is a nurse and Brian Reilly is a member of the College's Board of Consultors. •



The Davis family—Olivia '13 BSN and her parents, Pamela and Hugh '83 MS, '85 PhD—are promoting undergraduate research at the College through their recent gift.



Junior faculty researchers will benefit from the generosity of the Reilly family: (from left) Brian, Jeannette, Emma, Britten (a junior in the College) and Courtney.

TWO ALUMNAE ESTABLISH FUNDS

Christina Larson Kelly '74 BSN, MSN, CFP® has endowed the Christina Larson Kelly Scholarship Fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial support to academically gifted full-time undergraduate students enrolled in the College of Nursing with demonstrated financial need. Larson Kelly is a member of the College's Board of Consultors.

Undergraduate Nursing students with financial need will benefit as well from the gift of Jane Morro Mullany '80 BSN, a member of the College's Board of Consultors (see page 18), and her husband, Hank. The couple has established the Mullany Scholarship for academically talented students. •



Edward Stephen '05 LAS, a member of the University Advancement staff, in March became the director of Major Giving for the College of Nursing after successfully serving as a development officer in the Villanova School of Business. He brought to Villanova more than six years of operations and administrative experience in higher education. Stephen earned his BA in communications from Villanova and his MBA from Duke University. He is married to Barbara Buerke '05 BSN. •

GIFTS PROVIDE FUNDS FOR DRISCOLL HALL CHAPEL AND ITS WINDOW



Eileen Shea Lupton '03 BSN was to have started her career in pediatric nursing.

(Left) In Eileen's memory, the Charles R. Walgreen III family donated funds for the stained glass window in Driscoll Hall's Chapel. The window's panels depict three key figures in nursing history (Blessed Marie-Catherine of St. Augustine, Saint Fabiola and Florence Nightingale) and a contemporary Nursing student.

In memory of Eileen Shea Lupton '03 BSN, who was from the Chicago area, The Kathleen B. and Charles R. Walgreen III Foundation generously contributed funds for the College of Nursing's Chapel, a focal point in Driscoll Hall. Funds for the Chapel's stained glass window were donated by the Charles R. Walgreen III family, also in memory of Eileen. The Walgreens have known the Lupton family for many years

The Chapel is to be dedicated on May 3. •



In 2009, Therese and Patrick Lupton joined their son, the Rev. Brendan Lupton, of the Archdiocese of Chicago, when he offered Mass in the Driscoll Hall Chapel, now dedicated in memory of their beloved Eileen.

THANK YOU, GENEROUS DONORS

The College of Nursing is grateful for the contributions and support of our alumni, parents and friends over the years. As Villanova University begins its \$600 million comprehensive campaign, we welcome all gifts in support of the College's ongoing and future initiatives to ensure the growth of Nursing's scholarly environment and the best education for undergraduate and graduate students.

This list reflects donations to the College of Nursing and the College of Nursing Fund in calendar year 2013. If you have questions about giving, or find an omission or error in this list, please contact Edward Stephen '05 LAS, director of Major Giving. He can be reached by e-mail at edward.stephen@villanova.edu and by phone at (484) 343-2514.



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The College's Campaign Priorities

Dean Fitzpatrick and College of Nursing faculty are visiting with alumni across the country as part of Villanova University's campaign launch events. They are sharing the latest initiatives, student achievements and research happenings from Driscoll Hall.

The campaign priorities for the College of Nursing are:

- scholarship assistance,
- endowed chairs and professorships,
- global health and
- endowment of two College centers: The MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education and The Center for Global and Public Health.

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The 'Nova Nursing Nexus

Faith, family and friendship converged in Italy to overcome extraordinary circumstances.

Her saga began suddenly after Sunday Mass in Naples, Italy. Coleen Bradley Byrnes '88 BSN dipped her fingers into holy water and put her hand to her head. "I had the worst headache of my life," she recalls of that June 3, 2012. She took a couple of steps and collapsed, then was rushed to the Naval Support Activities (NSA) Naples Hospital.

From that point on, Villanovans would change her life in ways she could not have imagined when she graduated from the College of Nursing and started her career in a pediatric burn center in Philadelphia. She had already made a dear friend in classmate Sheila Kropp McLaughlin '88 BSN. She had already met her future husband, Rich Byrnes '87 LAS, whom she married in 1989 and followed around the world while he served as a Naval flight officer. After his retirement from military service and four children later, they remained in Naples, both of them civilian employees of the U.S. Department of Defense. He serves on the 6th Fleet's operational staff and in 2005 she became an elementary school nurse on board the NSA Naples base.

At NSA Naples Hospital on that Sunday almost two years ago, Byrnes was quickly diagnosed with a brain aneurysm. This tiny, but life-threatening, weakened bulging spot was in her left middle cerebral artery behind her eye. It ruptured and bled for about seven seconds.

The dramatic events that followed led to the convergence of three Villanova nurses in Italy. In the emergency department, Byrnes was cared for by then-Lt. Maura Adams USN, NC, '07 BSN, now a civilian. Neither knew the other was a Villanovan, for there was no time to talk as Byrnes was stabilized and transferred to a local hospital. Shortly thereafter, Byrnes' good friend McLaughlin boarded a plane in Philadelphia to care for the couple's children so that Rich Byrnes could advocate for and tend to his wife.

Having been awake during those first days in Naples hospitals, Byrnes can recall the experience. At the local hospital, with no pain medication, she suffered severe pain from vasospasms and double vision.

Since the Italian doctors were not confident they could handle her case, she was

to be transferred to a hospital in Germany. Still in pain, she saw a transport nurse from NSA Naples Hospital walk into her room. It was Lt. Adams, whose first five words were a dream come true: "I have morphine with me." While waiting for the U.S. Air Force jet, the two women discovered their Villanova Nursing connection. "At that point, they didn't think I was going to make it," recalls Byrnes. "Maura was in the ambulance when I talked to all four of my children, for what could have been the last time."

Their concern was valid. Ruptured brain aneurysms are fatal in about 40 percent of cases, according to The Brain Aneurysm Foundation. Rich Byrnes recalls: "I observed Maura in the ambulance with Coleen, constantly holding her hand, and Maura had tears in her eyes. It was an extremely touching scene and one which is forever etched in my mind. Patient care—Maura gets it!"

Germany's Saarland University Medical Center—a "large sprawling university teaching hospital campus," according to Rich Byrnes, was his wife's next stop. She was



In seven seconds, life would change dramatically for Coleen Byrnes '88 BSN. Rich Byrnes '87 LAS called his wife's experience nothing short of miraculous.

"Maura [Adams, USN, NC, '07 BSN] was in the ambulance when I talked to all four of my children, for what could have been the last time."

—Coleen Bradley Byrnes
'88 BSN



awake and talking while the head of the neurosurgery department expertly clipped the aneurysm. Post-operatively, Byrnes says, she was “not a good patient,” disconnecting her IVs as she suffered from aphasia. There were periods where she could not say her name or birthday. It took weeks for her to identify a picture of a baseball.

After three weeks in Saarland’s ICU, she was transferred to the U.S. military’s Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, then to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Following a week there, she began three months of speech, occupational and physical therapy while staying with her sister in Alexandria, Va.

“I had to learn to speak, read and write all over again,” Byrnes explains. While feeling she has 95 percent of her speech back, she still finds typing difficult but has learned to live with or work around her challenges. The experience “made me a stronger and better person,” she believes. Her husband calls it nothing short of miraculous: a “tremendous story of love, prayer, faith, family, community, personal strength, perseverance and survival. All of these values are stressed highly at Villanova.” He sees the three nurses as “epitomizing what ‘Nova Nursing is all about.”

Today, the Byrnes’ children Meghan (21) and Katie (19) are college students in the United States, while Danny (16) and Shannon (14) attend Naples American High School. And the three ‘Nova nurses? In Washington, D.C., at The Catholic University of America, Adams is earning her MSN in advanced public/community health and is an ER nurse at a Virginia hospital. In Philadelphia, McLaughlin practices in Student Health Services at the University of Pennsylvania and is the mother of Molly, a sophomore in Villanova’s School of Business. Back in Italy, Byrnes has returned as the nurse at Naples Elementary School.

What did she learn as a patient? Byrnes describes her new perspective: “You have to wait, for everything...as a nurse I have to realize how much waiting patients have had.” Many of her Villanova friends have been in touch. She chuckles, noting “the ‘Nova Nation really is around the world.” ●

NURSING ALUMNI NOTES

1970s

Carol Quinn ’70 BSN, CEO of Mercy Home Health and Mercy LIFE of Springfield, Pa., last fall was named “Health Care CEO of the Year” by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*.

Dorrie Fontaine ’72 BSN, PhD, RN, FAAN

was the co-recipient of The Capstone International Nursing Book Award of Sigma Theta Tau International at its 42nd Biennial Convention, held in Indianapolis in November 2013. She and Dr. Patricia Morton were honored for the book they co-authored: *Essentials of Critical Care Nursing: A Holistic Approach*. At the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Dr. Fontaine is the Sadie Heath Cabaniss Professor of Nursing and dean, School of Nursing, and associate chief nursing officer at the University of Virginia Health System.

Susan Warner Salmond ’73 BSN, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN

in June 2013 became co-director of the New Jersey Nursing Initiative (NJNI). Sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation, NJNI was launched in 2009 to address the state’s nurse faculty shortage and help avert its projected shortage of more than 23,000 nurses in less than two decades. Dr. Salmond is dean and professor of what is now the Rutgers School of Nursing in Newark, N.J., following the July 1 transfer to Rutgers of most units of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). She joined UMDNJ in 2005 and was appointed dean of its nursing school four years later.

Mary Beth Brisson Hardy ’75 BSN, RN, MPH, RLC is system director of the Patient Experience at Michigan-based Trinity Health, one of the largest Catholic health systems in the United States, with more than 10,000 nurses.

Angela Coladonato ’77 BSN, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, senior vice president and CNO, The Chester County Hospital and Health System in West Chester, Pa., was a finalist in the **Nurse.com** 2013 Nursing Excellence Awards program in the category “Advancing and Leading the Profession.”

1980s

Barbara Bercik McConnell ’86 BSN, MSN, CRNP received her MSN degree from Duquesne University’s School of Nursing and her accreditation through the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners in May 2013. She practices with the Palliative Care and Hospice Department at Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pleasant Hills, Pa.

Cindy Rich Schmus ’89 BSN, MSN, CRNP

in June 2013 was appointed state consultant for the Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP). While a Nursing student, she served as vice president on the SNAP board and subsequently was elected president of the National Student Nurses’ Association.

1990s

Kisha Lawson Elder ’93 MSN, NP, of Santa Monica, Calif., is a nursing supervisor for Walgreen’s Infusion Specialty Division in Southern California, where she hires, trains and develops a cadre of specialty infusion nurses who care for patients in their homes or alternative treatment sites. She is also a forensic nurse practitioner for the Santa Monica-UCLA Rape Treatment Center.

Cmdr. Gwen Metz ’94 BSN, MSN, MHA completed her MSN in nurse anesthesia from the University of Maryland School of Nursing in December 2012 and passed her certification board exam in February

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW AAN FELLOWS

Four alumnae were inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in October 2013:

- **Janice Beitz ’86 MSN, PhD, RN, CS, CNOR, CWOCN, CRNP, APN, C, MAPWCA;**
- **Pamela Zurkowski Caccione ’84 BSN, PhD, APRN, GNP, BC;**
- **Mary Ellen Smith Glasgow ’87 MSN, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC; and**
- **AnnMarie Papa ’77 BSN, DNP, RN, CEN, NE-BC, FAEN, FAAN.**

GREETINGS FROM THE NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Alumni,

During 2013, the Nursing Alumni Association (NAA) brought together Villanova nurses in engaging ways. We hosted our first Designer Handbag Bingo fundraiser at a local restaurant in November, which drew a fun crowd! There were some big winners and we are excited about holding a second annual event. The NAA also was involved with Career Day at the College of Nursing: Board member Michele Aragno '82 BSN, CRNA spoke about her career as a nurse anesthetist. We have been collecting job leads from you, our fellow alumni, to help launch the careers of new graduates. If you have employment information to share with new graduates,

please follow the NAA link on villanova.edu/nursing to complete the form.

The Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony, held this year on April 5, is a well-attended event that I look forward to each year. It is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with classmates and colleagues and celebrate the professional successes of our College of Nursing Medallion recipients. Congratulations to them! Their achievements reflect the values of Villanova University and the education we received in the College of Nursing.

Your continuing support of the Nursing Alumni Association is not only critical to our future but also important to the College of Nursing. We are in the middle of our membership drive that began in September 2013 and I am looking forward to your

participation. Learn more about us and contact us (we need your feedback!) by following the NAA link. Be a part of our collective future. Through the NAA, stay involved with the College of Nursing and in touch with one another.



Joanne F. Gurney '71 BSN, '88 MSN, RN
President, Nursing Alumni Association

2013. That same month she was promoted to commander in the Nurse Corps, U.S. Navy Reserves. She practices as a staff CRNA for Anesthesia Services, PA in Wilmington, Del., and in the Christiana Care Health System.

Carol Proud '96 BSN, '07 MSN, CRNP, AOCNP last fall earned certification as an advanced oncology certified nurse practitioner. She practices at Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center in Philadelphia.

2000s

Lt. Cmdr. Tiffany Ann Bachman Dodson, USN, NC, '00 BSN, DNP, CRNA in May 2013 earned her DNP degree from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. She serves as a nurse anesthetist in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, stationed at Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS), and thanks Villanova "for making my nursing career a success." Her previous experience includes practice in intensive care units and detainee operations critical care nursing, as well as emergency department nursing. As a nurse anesthetist,



she volunteered for a seven-month deployment aboard the USS John C. Stennis, where she served as the sole anesthesia provider for medical and dental departments while in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Following up with her DNP project theme, Dodson engages in high-fidelity technology research and training at NMCS and presented her research at two professional conferences last fall.

Samantha Rinkus Weimer '01 BSN, RN, CCRN is a critical care charge nurse in the Burn Center at University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora. Last October, she received one of five 2013 National Magnet "Nurse of the Year" awards at the American Nurses Credentialing Center's National Magnet Conference in Orlando, Fla. Weimer was honored in the category of "New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvements." She and a colleague developed a protocol to use tissue plasminogen activator (tPA)—a post-stroke clot-buster—to help frostbite patients, not a routine indication for the drug. They published on the topic and presented a plenary talk at the 2013 annual meeting of the American Burn Association. Weimer also worked to decrease central-line-associated bloodstream infections through one-on-one education with her peers at other burn centers. The award

also recognized her outreach efforts to local EMS, fire departments, rural communities and mountain resorts concerning frostbite treatment.

Jennifer Johnston '04 BSN, a hospice liaison, was a co-winner of the prestigious Visiting Nurse Service of New York "Nurse of the Year" award last summer. She was nominated and selected by fellow nurses for her outstanding performance and leadership skills.

Brian Peach '04 BSN, '10 MSN in August 2013 moved with his family to Gainesville, Fla. He is full-time staff nurse in the MICU



Do You Have News to Share?
Stay in touch—tell us about your latest job, award and other news.

Contact Ann Barrow McKenzie,
Phone: (610) 519-6814
E-mail: ann.mckenzie@villanova.edu.

at Shands Hospital at the University of Florida while pursuing his PhD there. He hopes to find a full-time faculty position after completing his degree.

Kristen Kreider Triesch '05 BSN, MSN earned her MSN at Long Island University's School of Nursing and is certified as a family nurse practitioner.

Kathryn Mawn '06 BSN, MSFN, RN graduated from Boston College with her master's in forensic nursing in 2011 and returned to Atlanta in 2012. At Saint Joseph's Hospital, part of Emory Healthcare, she is the clinical risk manager, managing all of the error reporting and clinical-related litigation.

Amy Witkoski Stimpfel '06 BSN, PhD, RN is an assistant professor at the New York University College of Nursing. She teaches in the Undergraduate Program and is a health services researcher.

Michele "Micki" Ballister '08 MSN, '13 DNP, CRNA in December 2013 received the Excellence in Clinical Instruction Award for her work as an educator in the Nurse Anesthesia Program at the Medical University of South Carolina College of Health Professions in Charleston. She is a graduate of Villanova Nursing's first cohort of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program. Her scholarly project, "Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists: The Impact of Structured High Fidelity Simulation on Anesthesia Ready Time," was implemented in July 2013 at her workplace.

Bonnie Baloga-Altieri '08 PhD, RN, NEA-BC in July 2013 was appointed vice president, Patient Care Services, and chief nursing officer at Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH) in New Brunswick, N.J. CSH is the nation's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital.

Kaitlin Gallagher '08 BSN, MSN, CRNA, RN graduated from Duke University's Nurse Anesthesia Program in May 2012. She is working in Baltimore and enrolled part-time in the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Program at Virginia Commonwealth University. She plans to graduate this May and return to the Philadelphia area with her fiancé.

Monika Schule Reisenauer '08 BSN, MSN, RN, NNP-BC is a neonatal nurse practitioner at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. In September 2013 at The Chinese University of Hong Kong's Department of Pediatrics Neonatal Scientific Meeting, "Frontiers in Neonatal Medicine: Infection and NEC," she gave three presentations: on infection control, preventing central-line-associated bloodstream infections, and NEC late onset sepsis and premie behavior.

THE ESSENCE OF NURSING

Spring 2013 was an exciting time for **Carly Hutchings Caggiano '01 BSN, RN**. That April 29, she gave birth to her first child, Catherine, and was honored with the Essence of Nursing Award by Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), where she has practiced as a staff nurse for 11 years. Working with critically ill patients in the Medical ICU, she looks to them—and listens to them—to help direct their care. She explains, "I consider myself an expert ICU nurse because of my ability to care, even when there is no cure. Sometimes, our patients are telling us

exactly what they need to end their suffering or aid in their recovery."

Sharing an emotional story during her pre-recorded acceptance speech at the hospital's Nurse Recognition Dinner in May 2013, the new mother relayed how she put wheels in motion—literally and figuratively—to move a terminally ill patient home and provide care en route. The patient died shortly after arriving, surrounded by family and her devoted dog. Of her award, Caggiano notes, "This is all due to my Nursing degree from Villanova."



J. Kiely Jr./Lightchaser Photography

Brigham and Women's Hospital honored Carly Hutchings Caggiano '01 BSN, RN.

She was the only nurse practitioner invited to speak to the 150 medical professionals from around the globe. Schule has extensive experience, from high-end level IV NICU to nursing care for critically ill neonates in the home setting, with a special interest in infection control in the NICU. She has used her diverse background in advanced practice to promote evidence-based infection control at the frontline of nursing. Very active in professional nursing activities, she

serves as a national committee member of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses.

Colleen Avery Brown '09 BSN, MSN, CRNP in spring 2013 graduated with her MSN from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and in August received certification as a women's health nurse practitioner. She married in September 2013 and moved to Seattle, where she will be working in an OB-GYN practice. Brown remains a member of the College of Nursing's Nursing Alumni Association Board.

Ruth Crothers Spitko '10 PhD, RN-BC, ACNS-BC, GCNS-BC, CNOR, a clinical nurse specialist in gerontology at St. Mary Medical Center in Langhorne, Pa., was a finalist in the **Nurse.com** 2013 Nursing Excellence Awards program in the category "Advancing and Leading the Profession."

Cynthia Dickerson Rubenstein '10 PhD, RN, CPNP-PC last August received the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's 2013 "Excellence and Innovation in Teaching



Monika Schule Reisenauer '08 BSN, MSN, RN, NNP-BC (right) gave three presentations in Hong Kong.

Award," which recognizes faculty with more than five years of teaching experience who are leaders in the promotion and implementation of innovative teaching/learning approaches in nursing. Dr. Rubenstein is the Undergraduate Program director and an assistant professor in James Madison University's Department of Nursing in Harrisonburg, Va., where her research focuses on preventing childhood obesity.

Lorraine "Lori" Rusch '10 PhD, RN, ACNS-BC in April 2013 received tenure at Creighton University's School of Nursing in Omaha, Neb., where she is an assistant professor.

Stephanie Jeffers '11 PhD, RN was elected in September 2013 to the National League for Nursing's Strategic Steering Committee.

Joanne Schwartz '11 PhD, CRNP, CNE in January assumed the new role of project director in the College of Nursing and Health Professions at Drexel University in Philadelphia. She will be developing an EdD program for the school.

Anne Fink '12 PhD, RN, CNE, assistant professor in the Department of Nursing at Alvernia University in Reading, Pa., earned her nurse educator certification from the National League for Nursing.

Majed Alamri '13 PhD in September 2013 started his new position as vice dean of the College of Applied Medical Sciences, part of The Sulaiman Alrajhi Colleges, a new research-oriented institution in Al Bukairyah, Qassim, Saudi Arabia.

Editor's note: Our apologies to Kate Capozzola '12 BSN, whose name was misspelled in a caption on page 3 in the Spring 2013 issue.

In Memoriam: Alumni

Nan Bell Hechenberger '56 BSN, of Glen Mills, Pa., died on March 6. She was past president of Neumann University and dean emerita of the University of Maryland School of Nursing.

Doris Rowe Schoel '59 BSN died December 27, 2013, in Robeson, Pa.

Patricia Jean Ribik Smith '84 BSN, of Virginia Beach, Va., died on September 2, 2013. She had retired as a nurse with Sentara, an integrated health-care system.

Eileen Cassin Bademan '86 BSN, of Yardley, Pa., died after a yearlong battle with cancer on July 25, 2013. She had practiced as a staff nurse at St. Mary Medical Center in Langhorne, Pa., since 2009.

Suzanne DuRocher '93 MSN, of Merchantville, N.J., died on November 11, 2013. She was associate chief nursing officer of operations at Temple University Hospital. Her mother is Alice Drumm '00 MSN.

Linda Bingaman Napieralski, MSN, RN, of Voorhees, N.J., who earned her post-master's certificate in Nursing Education in 2009, died on October 30, 2013. She was a nursing instructor at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden, N.J.

Friend

Rita McNamara, of Narberth, Pa., a good friend of Villanova University and the College of Nursing, died at home on April 25, 2013. Her late husband, Joseph McNamara, served on Villanova University's Board of Trustees. ●

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“As stressful as a day is at my job, I really do look forward to coming in every day,” notes Jessica Pompizzi ’09 BSN, RN.

Caring from the Heart

“It’s a really great feeling to leave work and feel like you did something important that day. I am proud to be where I am right now,” notes Jessica Pompizzi ’09 BSN, RN. She is a nurse on the Regenstein Cardiac Care Unit (CCU)—a combined cardiac ICU and cardiology floor at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago.

Pompizzi grew up in Chicago, the daughter of Philadelphians Michael ’65 LAS and Christine Pompizzi. She was influenced to attend Villanova University because of her father’s experience as well as the reputation of the College of Nursing. “Villanova was the perfect choice for me,” she says. Returning home after graduation, Pompizzi practiced for two years on an adult step-down unit focused on renal and infectious disease, then for a year in Regenstein’s pediatric emergency department before starting in cardiac care.

A 37-bed unit, Regenstein primarily handles congenital heart defects, with a section for neonates and another for children 2 years or older. Pompizzi enjoys guiding her patients from admission through discharge. “We see anyone from birth to 18,” she notes, even a few adults “due to their rare congenital heart defects that many adult practitioners aren’t specialized in treating.”

Among Pompizzi’s patients are many newborns whose heart defects “require multiple stages and surgeries, so our patients come back in frequently,” she

explains. “We also are one of the main cardiac transplant hospitals in the tri-state area.”

In this fast-paced, high-tech environment, Pompizzi has felt “extremely prepared and well-educated” during these early years of her practice. “I have Villanova to thank for that,” she explains. “Villanova taught

“Our patients have such unique heart defects, and by being both an ICU and cardiac care unit, we see them frequently and are able to follow them as they grow up.”

**—Jessica Pompizzi
’09 BSN, RN**



me to be a critical thinker while also being a compassionate nurse.”

Relationships with her patients and their families are important to this critical care nurse. “You want to see your patients do well,” she believes. “It’s exciting to come in and see that one of our patients has received a new heart overnight or that another has done really well post-op and may be extubated. We have a continuum

of care that allows us to see our patients through the worst of times and the best, whether it be a mom holding her child for the first time in months or a child in heart failure receive a new heart and get discharged only a few weeks later. It’s incredibly rewarding.”

The unit’s consistency in care “provides better patient care and outcomes,” Pompizzi adds. “Our patients have such unique heart defects, and by being both an ICU and cardiac care unit, we are able to follow them as they grow up. We get to know them well. We are able to adjust our care to fit the patients’ needs both medically and socioeconomically.”

What about the pressures of the job? “As nurses, it’s in our nature to care for others, and this feeling doesn’t stop just because we have left the hospital,” she replies. “I’ve found that I have to make a conscious effort to stop myself from stressing about situations from work. Remembering to take time for myself is one of the most important things.” To enhance her education and practice, she says she “would like to get my doctorate in pediatric critical care nursing. My goal is to become one of the cardiovascular surgery advanced practice nurses on my unit.”

As she travels the halls of the children’s hospital, Pompizzi carries her Villanova experience with her. “I am really proud to be a Villanova nurse,” she affirms. “It shaped who I am today.” •



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